MINUTES OF THE 56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ARTS SOCIETY EAST HERTFORDSHIRE HELD AT THE SPOTLIGHT, BROXBOURNE, HERTS EN11 8BE ON THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2025.

President	Julia Fulton
Vice Chairman	Colin Gordon
Treasurer	Valerie Stock
Secretary	Sally Paque
Membership	Philip Juniper
Outings	Robert Bewick
Programme	Patricia Fairbrass
Newsletter	Rosemary Davis
Special Interest Days	Susan Geddes
Volunteers & Young Arts	Sandra Wallace
Website / Zoom	Trevor Hampton
Committee Member	Beverley Maunder-Taylor\ Nick Eden-Green

1. Vice Chairman's Opening Remarks

Colin Gordon welcomed everyone to the 58th Annual General Meeting. He reminded members that the Trustees' Report had been previously circulated giving details of the past year but began his address with a tribute to Chairman Malcolm Gordon whose sudden death had shocked everyone. He stated that it was impossible to overstate how conscientious and committed to the Society Malcolm had been and the previous very successful year was the best testimony to Malcolm's leadership as it was under his guidance that the programme had been drawn up.

The target of a membership of 350 had been achieved putting TASEH in a strong position both financially and in terms of numbers, unlike some other Arts Societies. Members introducing friends and families to the lectures had achieved this, primarily, and he hoped this would continue,

Another memorable highlight had been the donation of over £4,000 to local youth based and arts charities and Colin reminded members that this work is funded by Gift Aid and raffles, so completion of the recent questionnaire on Gift Aid had been useful. Information about any other projects who would welcome funding should be communicated to any Committee members.

With reference to the Committee, Colin gave a special thank you to Sandra Wallace who was stepping down from the Committee, having joined in 2016. Sandra had worked tirelessly on Young Arts and had brought many new contacts and projects forward. He pointed out that having a large Committee meant that none of the roles are too arduous and then gave a special thank you to everyone who had served on the Committee during his eight-year tenure. He had thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many members and had received tremendous support during difficult periods such as lockdown and it had been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman.

He then handed proceedings to President Julia Fulton to chair the remainder of the AGM.

2. **Apologies** had been received from Philip Juniper, Chris and Tricia Miller and Keith Wilson.

3. **The Minutes of the 55th AGM held on 28 November 2024** had been circulated. Peter Davis proposed the adoption of the Minutes, seconded by Pam Harris and carried by the members.
The Minutes were then signed by the Vice-Chairman.

4. **The Trustees Report** had been circulated; Judith Pearson proposed the adoption of the report, seconded by Wendy Hampton and carried unanimously.

5. **The Society's Accounts for 2024 – 25**, copies of the audited Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2025 had been circulated. Derek Harrison proposed adoption of the Accounts, seconded by Enid Wormald and carried unanimously.

6. **Election of Officers and Committee Members**
Rosemary Davis and Beverley Maunder-Taylor had agreed to stand for re-election as **Joint Chairmen,** proposed by Colin Gordon, seconded by Diana Dale and elected unanimously.
In the light of the election of Joint Chairmen a Vice Chairman would not be appointed this year.
Valerie Stock had agreed to stand for re-election as **Treasurer**, proposed by Sandra Wallace, seconded by Malcolm Elliott and carried unanimously.
Sally Paque had agreed to stand for re-election as **Secretary**, proposed by Philip Juniper, seconded by Gerald Pepper and carried unanimously.
Co-Opted member Nick Eden-Green had put himself forward for election**,** proposed by David Hunt and seconded by Tom Laidler
The following members had agreed to put themselves forward en bloc for election to the Committee, namely **Trevor Hampton, Philip Juniper, Robert Bewick, Patricia Fairbrass, Susan Geddes and Julie Hanson**, proposed by Elizabeth Dempster, seconded by Alison Gordon and carried unanimously.

7. **Appointment of the Auditor for the Coming Year**
The re-appointment of the Auditor, Elizabeth Samuel of D & E Accountancy Ltd was proposed by Valerie Stock, seconded by Barbara Gibbs and carried unanimously.

8. **Any Other Business**
No matters having been tabled, the President echoed Colin's words that the year had started on a very sad note with the death of the Chairman, Malcolm Gordon. It was at his last lecture that he had invited Julia to become President so the role has a special meaning for her. Fortunately Colin, the Vice Chairman agreed to take over as Acting Chairman to give the Committee time to find a Chairman and Julia thanked Rosemary Davis and Beverley Maunder-Taylor for agreeing to do the job jointly.

8. Any Other Business (continued)

The year had provided the usual well-supported events, which kept all entertained and thanks were due to the organisers. The new Committee members had settled into their roles with no fuss and much hard work but new members, including a Vice Chairman, are still needed.

As mentioned, Sandra Wallace had decided to stand down after ten years on the Committee, responsible for Young Arts but she also fulfilled a most important role in arranging the table flowers for the Summer Lunch; Julia thanked her for her commitment.

Colin had had an eventful time as Chairman; working from home during Covid; having to find a temporary venue and eventually returning to Spotlight. He had also run very successful trips abroad, which had not been entirely without their problems. Through all this he presented as a calm, efficient and sociable leader, but behind scenes working hard to keep 'the show on the road". As an acknowledgement of this Julia and the Committee felt it would be appropriate to present Colin with a small gift of thanks and appreciation.

9. Date of the next Annual General Meeting.

Thursday 26th November 2026. The meeting was closed at **10.41 am.**