

CONSTITUTION & RULES

- 1 **Title:** The Society shall be called ‘The Arts Society Birmingham’.
- 2 **Objects:** As a Member Society of The Arts Society (The Arts Society is the operating name for the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies – NADFAS), the Society shall have as the objects:
- a) the promotion and advancement of the education of the public in the cultivation, appreciation and study of the decorative and fine arts;
 - b) the conservation and preservation of the artistic heritage of the United Kingdom and other countries for the benefit of the public; and
 - c) the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, in particular, but without limitation, the decorative and fine arts.

These may be achieved by:

- a) Lectures to members of the Society.
 - b) Visits to private houses, collections, museums, exhibitions and other places of interest.
 - c) Study groups to cover a defined syllabus within the objects of the Society.
 - d) Exhibitions or artistic performances of an educational nature.
 - e) Work in the preservation of the national cultural heritage.
- 3 **Membership:** The Society shall consist of ordinary and honorary members; and the Committee shall determine the maximum number of ordinary members. The Committee may elect as honorary members, persons who are distinguished in the arts, or who have done valuable work for the Society.

It shall be a condition of ordinary membership that, in each financial year of the Society, members attend a minimum of three of the lectures detailed on the programme card. Ordinary members who fail to do so may be requested to forfeit their membership at the discretion of the Committee. Members will be entitled to re-apply for ordinary membership at any time.

- 4 **Subscriptions:** The subscription for ordinary membership shall be determined by the members present at the Annual General Meeting, the first payment being due on election or re-election and subsequent subscriptions being due annually on 1st June. If put to the vote a simple majority shall decide.

Any member who has not paid his or her current subscription by 1st July after it becomes due, will be deemed to have forfeited their membership.

- 5 **Expulsion from the Society:** If the conduct or action of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee, be injurious to, or inconsistent with the character, interests or objects of the Society, the Committee may request such member to resign. If the member does not tender his or her resignation in writing within one month of the date of the request, such request being made in writing, the Committee may by resolution terminate his or her membership.

- 6 **Officers:** The Officers of the Society shall consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and a Membership Secretary, all of whom shall be nominated annually by the Committee for election at the next Annual General Meeting. Neither the Chairman nor the Vice Chairman may hold office for more than five consecutive years.

There may also be appointed a President and not more than five Vice Presidents whom the Committee shall have power to appoint. The offices of President and Vice President shall be honorary offices and shall entitle the holders to all the privileges of ordinary membership, save that they shall not be entitled to vote at meetings or propose candidates for election. The President and Vice President shall be appointed annually.

- 7 **Committee:** The affairs of the Society shall be managed and its funds administered by a Committee. Any member of the Society may propose a member, whose consent shall first have been obtained, for election to the Committee. Any such nomination must be notified to the Secretary at least six weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall comprise the Officers and not more than ten members. The Committee shall have power to co-opt up to four additional members, such members to serve for a period not exceeding twelve months. Any casual vacancy amongst the Officers or Committee may be filled by the Committee.

8 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 September each year, the date being notified in the programme. 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 adopt the accounts.
- (c) To elect Officers and Committee.
- (d) To consider any special resolutions duly proposed and seconded.

The election of Officers and members of the Committee shall be by show of hands, unless there are more nominations than vacancies to be filled, in which case the election shall be by ballot.

9 Special Resolutions: Any member wishing to bring forward a resolution for consideration at the Annual General Meeting shall give notice in writing thereof to the Secretary at least six weeks prior to the holding of the meeting. Any such resolution must show the name of the proposer and seconder, and shall be included in the agenda of the meeting.

Only with the consent of the Chairman shall any resolution which does not comply with these requirements be discussed at the Annual General Meeting.

10 Committee Meetings: The Committee shall meet at least four times a year and five members present shall form a quorum, provided that the persons present include at least two Officers.

At any General Meeting, the decision of the Chairman upon a question of order, voting, adjournment or interpretation of the Rules of the Society shall be final. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

11 Sub-Committees: The Committee shall have power to form from time to time, Sub-Committees to organise study groups or special events.

12 Financial Year: The Society's financial year shall end on 31st March. A Balance Sheet with an account of the income and expenditure for the preceding financial year shall be presented at each Annual General Meeting having been verified by an independent person with a working knowledge of accounts.

13 Funds: All money belonging to the Society shall be held in an account in the name of the Society at a Bank or Building Society to be chosen by the Committee. All cheques shall be signed by any two Officers of the Society.

14 Winding Up: If at the Annual General Meeting, a special resolution (of which notice has been given to the members in the notice convening the meeting) to wind up the affairs of the Society shall be passed, so much of the assets of the Society shall be realised as may be required to discharge all its liabilities, and any remaining assets shall be made over to such charitable institutions or other associations having charitable objects similar to those of the Society as the Committee shall decide. No such special resolutions shall be effective unless carried by at least two-thirds of the members present.

15 Visitors: Members are permitted to bring not more than one guest to any meeting of the Society, but the same individual may not be brought more than twice in any one season of lectures. The name of any intended guest must be notified in writing to the Membership Secretary not less than seven days prior to the meeting to which the guest is to be brought. Members will be required to pay a fee per guest which must be paid on or before the day of the meeting and will be held responsible in all respects for that guest whilst attending any meeting of the Society. Prospective members on the waiting list may also attend two meetings in any one season of lectures as visitors. The fee shall be determined by the members present at the Annual General Meeting. If put to the vote, a simple majority shall decide.

16 Amendment of Rules: A proposal of a special resolution containing any amendment to the Rules of the Society shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least six weeks prior to the holding of an Annual General Meeting and bear the signature of the proposer and the supporting signatures of at least ten members. A two-thirds majority of those present at such meeting shall be required to effect any amendment of Rules.