

Draft

The Chairs Report 2026

Good morning and welcome – it is wonderful to see so many of you here today, thank you for attending our 47th AGM.

For those of you attending for the first time, let me tell you the form.

- All reports, papers and the agenda for this morning were distributed in advance of today – hopefully you have had a chance to read them.
- A brief introduction (by me) and approval of the minutes from the AGM 17th June 2025
- Followed by a précised report from Richard Corden our Hon. Treasurer, on his first year in the role and our current financial situation.
- Charles Harris, our President will say a few words. I would like to thank Charles for his ongoing counsel as President.
- Charles Holden, our Hon. Secretary will take us through the formal part of the AGM.
- Stephanie Danby from the Chesil will give us an update on their productions and future developments. As most of you know we (TASW) sponsored the youth production in February and will be doing so again in 2027.
- Followed by our final lecture for this season *1968: The year that changed the Direction of Art*
- Questions for the committee in the foyer after the lecture

It is worth taking a moment to reflect on some of the highlights of the year.

Today is the anniversary of my appointment as Chair of TASW, and it's been a great pleasure to serve in this role, which is only possible by having such a proactive and strong committee along with a team of incredible volunteers. Sadly, I don't have time to thank everyone who makes the lectures, SIDs and outings possible. Here are a few examples.

All our volunteers who make lecture days possible and ensure we have a cup of coffee and are signed in. Diana Bailey who has been a star in ensuring our new members and other lunches are catered for.

Elaine Macfarlane and Christina Thomas, for the work on our new website which they produced in record breaking time and gives us a fresh platform. They both went beyond the call of volunteering to make this happen.

David Lovegrove and Tricia Grant for the work they put into our relationship with Peter Symonds and the art show of students work each year. Look out for this year's collection in September and your opportunity to vote.

Nina Begg – who is very standing down as Society Development Secretary after four years and will be greatly missed. Nina has always, been imaginative, warm and adds sparkle from setting up the book sale to raise awareness and money for the art bags for disadvantaged young people, liaising with the Chesil Theatre and all the lucky dips and photo competitions as well as creating a strong team to support her.

Jo Sturgess – has kindly agreed to take on this role, please take a moment to welcome her at the end of the lecture and over the coming months

Karen Dagwell is standing down as Programme Secretary (2022) and **Tim Pattinson** will be taking on this key role. Luckily for us Karen is staying on as Vice-Chair so we will still have the benefit of her counsel and planning skills. This year has been very memorable for the lectures on Vaux le Vicomet: The inspiration behind Versailles Palace by Carole Petipher (a subject I knew nothing about and gave a fascinating glimpse into a different world), Highlights of the Vatican Museums by Start Harvey and the extraordinary life of Laura Knight by Rosalind Whyte. Karen has worked closely with Tim to ensure an equally engaging line up next year. Please have a look at our website for details.

Pat Harris continues to tempt us with imaginative trips. Pat has the ability to make trips not only enjoyable but an opportunity to experience new places and learn – we are very fortunate to have Pat as our Outings & Tours Secretary.

Some of the highlights of this year were West Horsley Place (where they film ghosts) and Hatchlands Park with the astonishing musical instrument collection. Hampton Court for the tulips and a longer trip to Shropshire which had rave reviews from all who attended. Look out for the coming year – Highclere in July has already sold out.

Julie Adams, who only took over the SIDs last year has organised three fascinating lecture days for us this year including Ian Swankie to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the railways and this year's lineup looks very tempting. I am very much looking forward to all three, but the Illuminated Manuscripts should be particularly interesting as we have the 12th Century Winchester Bible in the Cathedral. Julie has also found us a new venue which is far more welcoming.

Thank you to the MBC team whose support is invaluable on lecture days.

I would like to thank **Sarah Hill**, my predecessor for her generosity in time and support over my first six months. However old we are it is greatly reassuring to have someone to talk events over with and receive wise counsel.

Many thanks to the many of you who have already renewed your membership for the coming Programme Year - we hope that all of you will do so - **Sara McParland** has just finished her first year as Membership Secretary and has added a warmth and energy to the role.

Don't hesitate to give feedback to any member of the Committee on how we might make your membership even better and thank you for continuing to give your feedback on our lectures.

In the coming year we are hoping to focus on our role in the community with charities that we support and will update you on this in September and also to start planning for our 50th Anniversary in September 2029 (all ideas welcome).

Now I'll hand over to Charles Holden for a review of the Minutes from last year's AGM and the formal proceedings