



DRAFT Minutes of the FPSAD AGM held at 6.15pm, 31 January 2026 at PSAD

There were 27 Friends of Putney School of Art and Design (FPSAD) present, including Rob Dark (President), four Trustees and five members of the Management Committee. Apologies were received from Margaret Knott (Vice-President), Gavin Franklin, Nicole Hollingworth and Sniez Torbarina. The meeting was quorate.

Members were welcomed to the meeting by the President. He commented how fortunate the school was to have such dedicated people willing to run the Friends of PSAD, which have been in existence for 26 years. PSAD is one of the best adult education centres in London, and the quality of art in the School's exhibitions was a testament to teaching at the School.

Draft Minutes of 2024 AGM and matters arising

The draft minutes of the 2024 AGM had been circulated. The President gave a brief resume. The minutes indicate what the Friends do, the purchases of equipment made, and emphasise that the Friends are a charity, focussing on, supporting and enhancing the School. The minutes were approved by Friends present. The President pointed out that the last AGM was 15 months ago. The reason for that gap was to help the Treasurer and Independent Examiner deal with accounts at the end of our financial year, 8 September, so soon before a November AGM. The 15-month gap between AGMs is allowed under the constitution. There were no matters arising not dealt with later.

Review of the year by Clare Frankl Bertram, Chair of the Trustees

This review covers the period from September 2024 to September 2025

Friends of Putney School of Art and Design carried out our familiar range of activities in 2024 -2025: lectures, workshops, the Xmas Fair, held in the School, and Putney Art, held in the Exchange Shopping Centre. In addition, we ran the spectacularly successful Res'tiling project.

Funds and Fund Raising

We received a quite unexpected surprise early in the financial year with a hugely generous donation to our funds from former ceramics student, Leslie Laurans, who now lives in USA. She wanted to give something back to the School, in gratitude for the pleasure she had found being a part of our community. She asked that her donation be spent to enhance the ceramics provision. I have described, under activities below in this report, just how transformative this donation has been.

We have continued to contribute funding to the School from our accumulated surplus, based on the constantly updated wish list formulated from needs and ideas put forward by staff, students and the Friends.

If you have more ideas for equipment or material improvements let your tutor or us know. We are very grateful to Grant Martindale for his work on this.

This 24/25 year's wish list has continued to be focused on developing the potential of the Disraeli Road site and the increased studio space in the main building. New equipment provided by the Friends during this financial year has included:

- Heat press for creative textiles £ 400
- New A3 lino printing press £1104
- 1 shimpo pottery wheel £1869
- 10 shimpo wheel stools £ 720
- Etching blotter rack £ 350

In addition, we agreed to fund the following, (expenditure will appear in the next set of accounts):

- Leslie Laurans Donation plus a further £10,000 to develop and equip the new Members Studio, overall budget £23,000
- Digital cutter (up to 4mm) £ 500
- Refurbishment of worktops in Studio 4 print room £1000
- Full set medium etching press blankets plus 1 large etching press blanket £ 800
- Extension of spotlighting ring in 3D Studio 1.

Friends Management Committee and Membership

1. Vicky Garthwaite is standing down as Chair of the Management Committee, but to the relief and delight of all of us she wants to remain on the committee 'doing stuff'!!!! I hope the AGM will agree to our recording our thanks to her in our minutes. We are delighted that Lizzie Duthie has been nominated to take over as Chair at this AGM.
2. Our committee member Alexandra Bell has sadly withdrawn from the committee having been a great help with our social media presence. I hope that the AGM will agree to recording our thanks to her in our minutes.
3. We coopted new members to the committee during the year: Lizzie Duthie, Alex Chaldicott, Gavin Franklin, and Cheryl Younson. We are delighted that they are now up for election at this AGM.
4. Our membership level dropped slightly last year and we need to find ways of increasing it further.

Activities

1. The Christmas Fair had a successful year in December 2024 with noticeable increase in footfall as our use of internet-based journals and social media improves. The recent fair in December 2025 was even more successful but is outside this accounting year, more about that in the preview of 2025-26.
2. Commission on art sales from Putney Art were good and it remains a very successful event providing excellent promotion for the School.
3. Lectures and Workshops show a small return in the accounts, in line with our aim only to break even on these events. This is a fine balancing act dependent on tutor fees and other expenses. The

demand for 2D workshops has declined while 3D ceramic workshops remain very buoyant, which is giving us food for thought in the coming year.

4. Merchandising is settling into a steady earner which should show growing returns in the future.
5. The Leslie Laurans donation prompted feverish activity for the committee supporting the Head of School and her team to develop ideas for the Members Studio in Disraeli Road. The School produced a complete business plan to convince the School's management at Enable that it was a viable proposition for Ceramics to take over the whole of Disraeli Road with the drawing and painting classes rehoused back in the main building in a new studio in the basement. Enable agreed to fund the alterations in the main building, while the Friends, through our own funds in addition to the Leslie Laurans donation funded the whole of the fitting out and equipping of the new Members Studio. Both parts of the project were put into effect with building and fitting out work carried out over last summer break.
6. The Res'tiling project was enthusiastically embraced throughout the School producing over 300 tiles designed and produced by students and staff from all over the School!!! We are hugely indebted to Nicole Hollingworth for making the project such a success and also to Dante for taking on the task of setting the tiles into the beautiful panels which are now decorating the School. There are still more to come!
7. As always, we will be looking for new ideas and new people, for activities to be run by the Friends. Activities can help build the School community, increase interest, skills and excitement, and help us raise funds to support the School. If you have ideas or hear of ideas, please get in touch.

Management of the School

The School continues to be managed under the umbrella of EnableLC, which is a not-for-profit organization contracted to provide a range of services to Wandsworth Council. The Friends are the School's own Charity, all funds raised by us go directly to help support and improve the School.

Trustees Annual Report of the Accounts for the year by the Treasurer

Damaris Albaran presented the report of the accounts for the academic year ending 8 September 2025. Income declined in some areas, such as Membership, but this loss had been more than made up for by the Laurans donation of £13K, restricted to be spent on the new pottery studio. Although we had not spent it at the end of the financial year, we have since then spent £25K on the pottery studio. Leslie Laurans has given some more money since then, and we currently have £36K in the bank.

We are thinking of changing the financial year fairly soon, to aid the work on the accounts, as our main fund raiser is the December Christmas Fair.

One question on the accounts from a member: Did the Laurans donation attract Gift Aid? Answer: No, as she is not a UK tax payer.

The accounts were approved by members, and Damaris was thanked for her work producing them.

Motion to increase the annual membership fee

The costs of Friends of PSAD are increasing and they would like to increase the annual Friends membership fee from current £12 to £15. The motion was approved unanimously by members present, some of whom considered that we could increase it by more than that amount.

Elections

All Trustees and Committee members must stand down at the AGM. Voting took place by show of hands. The new Committee were elected for 2026/27 by Friends present as follows:

TRUSTEES

- **Damaris Albarran** (Trustee/ Treasurer) (proposed by Joanna Goodchild, seconded by Vicki Garthwaite)
- **Clare Frankl Bertram** (Trustee/ Chair of Trustees) (proposed by Jenny Newhouse, seconded by Pat Dark)
- **Elizabeth Duthie** (Trustee/ Chair of Management Committee) (proposed by Linda Hayman, seconded by Pamela Greene)
- **Victoria Garthwaite** (Trustee) (proposed by Clare Frankl Bertram, seconded by Lizzie Duthie)
- **Nicole Hollingworth** (Trustee/ Membership Sec) (proposed by Reena Agrawal, seconded by Axel Chaldicott)
- **Carolyn McMillan** (Trustee/ Secretary) (proposed by Philip Brown, seconded by Damaris Albarran)
- **Sniez Torbarina** (Trustee/ Website Editor) (proposed by Mark Hayman, seconded by Alison Brooke).

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- **Susan Carty** (proposed by everyone in her pottery class!!), seconded by Carolyn McMillan)
- **Axel Chaldicott** (proposed by Jane Stothert, seconded by Cheryl Younson)
- **Gavin Franklin** (proposed by Rob Dark, seconded by Daphne Duthie)
- **Pamela Greene** (proposed by Rowena Skoulding, seconded by Jane Allen)
- **Fleur Tookey** (proposed by Lizzie Duthie, seconded by Jane Theophilus)
- **Cheryl Younson** (proposed by Madeleine Backlund, seconded by Clare Frankl Bertram).

All Trustees also serve on the Management Committee.

Additional committee members may be co-opted during the year for their skills/help organising lectures, parties, Putney Art, Fair etc.

The President thanked the outgoing Committee for all their hard work over the previous year. There was a show of hands from those present in support of all the candidates for election.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

Rob Dark and Margaret Knott, our founder members, were unanimously re-confirmed as Hon. President and Hon. Vice-President respectively, and were thanked for their continuing support.

Report on forthcoming year by Clare Frankl Bertram, Chair of the Trustees

This Preview covers the year from September '25 to September '26, so confusingly, it will include some things which have already started as well as throughout the rest of the year.

As the School's own charity everything we can contribute in funds and activities goes directly to enhancing the contribution that the School can make to our community, both in-house and through outreach. Our charity status and charitable objectives remain the same.

Membership

We need more members! We need the importance of supporting the school to be more widely understood. We need to harness the appreciation for the School from past and present alumni to ensure its future.

We are pleased with the number of new members already joining this year. But will be looking for more! We need all the help we can get to imbed the idea of supporting the School, directly through the Friends, in all classes and all students.

The Friends website and social media are key factors in keeping in touch with our members. Along with emailed newsletters, the website provides a constant source of information and news at all members fingertips.

Access

Financial pressures from inflation, energy prices, rising staff costs etc. are continuing to impact severely on the School, as they will on many of our current and potential students. **Too few students appreciate that the School receives no direct funding from Wandsworth Local Government or Central Government funding. The School's budget depends on student numbers and fee income. In order to keep fees affordable any contribution that the Friends can make is essential.**

Friends' activities this year will again need to focus on **Access**, in the widest sense.

1. Re-assessing the bursary scheme, in order to make **access** funding more available to a wider audience.
2. Help the School's programme to **access** wider audiences through outreach and innovative, affordable course delivery.
3. Help to keep the courses and fees affordable and attractive and accessible to all aspiring students.
4. Look to more long-term funding support to help give future stability to the School.

Funds and Fund Raising

1. The Friends were asked to help with a grant application for visual arts activities as part of Wandsworth Year of Culture. We were successful in securing a £10,000 grant to support exhibitions and workshops across the borough in association with individual artists, community groups, Sprout Arts, Battersea Arts Centre as well as PSAD. All these activities will be under the banner *WeArtWandsworth*.

2. Just before Christmas, the Friends received a special Christmas Present in the form of a further donation from Leslie Laurans, who has already helped us to establish the Members Studio at Disraeli Road. These funds are going to be put towards refurbishing the entrance hall in Disraeli Road to allow displays and sale of ceramics.

3. We have approved expenditure on a wish list agreed of equipment and fittings this year as follows:-

- Print room Laser cutter £1500
- Print room small equipment replacement £ 500
- Print room Karcher pressure washer £ 500
- Studio 5, 2 spot light rings £5000
- Canteen Exhibition spotlights £1500
- 3D reception Display Cabinet (donation) £4000
- 3D reception display wall panels £1000
- 3D reception TV events display £ 400
- 3D Members studio drying cupboard £2000
- 3D Slab roller £ 750

In addition, held over from last year:-

- 3D laser cutter £ 500
- Studio 4 worktop refurb £1000

Activities

Activities this year are to continue:

1. The Xmas Fair, which was held in December 2025, was spectacularly successful, raising £12,000 for the School as well as supporting between forty and fifty artists to promote and sell their work.
2. The Res'tiling' project will continue using the huge number of tiles, already in stock, to enhance more parts of the School.
3. Our programme of lectures will continue, the first of which is this evening!
4. The workshop programme will continue, particularly the well-supported ceramic workshops. We will be reassessing how to enhance our programme so that it better supports the School's ever-expanding short course programme.
5. Running Putney Art, in the Exchange, immediately after the summer exhibition has proved very successful in encouraging new artists to exhibit and sell their work. 2026 will see another Putney Art Exhibition. We will be looking at ways of expanding and improving this event.
6. As always, we will be looking for new ideas and new people, for activities to be run by the Friends. Activities can help build the School community, increase interest, skills and excitement, and help us raise funds to support the School. If you have ideas or hear of ideas, please get in touch.

Future Development and Management of the School

The School continues to be managed under the umbrella of EnableLC, which is a not-for-profit organization contracted to provide a range of services to Wandsworth Council. However, we need to be realistic and recognize the increasing financial pressures and difficulties facing Local Government.

Although all appears to be working well for now, we will continue to be vigilant and keep engaging with Enable and Wandsworth Council in discussions about the future growth and management of the School.

Questions by Friends present

Q: Can the School Office be asked to point out to newly-enrolled students that they might join the Friends? **A:** At the moment there is no tick box for FPSAD enrolment when they pay for their course.

Q: Are lectures open to members of the public or just members/students at the School? Perhaps an advert for the lecture could be placed in a local community newsletter. **A:** Friends can bring a non-member, but the ticket charge is £5. At the moment we cannot accept large numbers of people at lectures as there are School restrictions on numbers in Studio 1.

Q: Do the Friends get involved in Wandsworth Open House? **A:** No, the Friends are not involved, although the School was in the past. The event is now run by a group of artists

AOB

The Chair of Trustees talked of the possibility of the Friends becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This would make insurance easier and limit the liability of trustees. Should the Committee decide on that route we would call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) for members' approval.

There were no other matters arising, and the meeting was concluded with the President thanking members for coming to the AGM. The meeting was then closed.

Date of next AGM

The next AGM is planned for Saturday 6 February 2027.

