

Changing the charitable status of The Arts Society Camberley

At the AGM of The Arts Society Camberley to be held on the 23 October 2019 there will be resolutions proposing:

- “To apply to the Charity Commission to register as a charity”
- “To amend the Constitution appropriately, also updating the quorum and data protection sections”

Why does The Arts Society Camberley wish to do this?

The Arts Society Camberley is affiliated to The Arts Society Headquarters, previously known as NADFAS House, and pays an annual fee to Headquarters for administration purposes and the production of the Arts Society Magazine.

At the present time The Arts Society headquarters, as the result of members signing the Gift Aid certificate, claims back from the HMRC 25% of the affiliation fee.

Each year The Arts Society Camberley can claim £1 back from headquarters as part of the payment for administering this Gift Aid process.

Changing the charitable status of The Arts Society Camberley will enable the Society to claim back from the HMRC 25% of the current membership fee.

What are the advantages to The Arts Society Camberley of doing this?

Being able to claim back from the HMRC the full 25% from the current membership fee for those members who are able to, and have signed, the Gift Aid certificate will significantly improve the finances of your Society.

This will enable the Society to: -

- maintain its current lecture programme,
- ensure that membership fee increases are kept to a minimum
- allow the Committee to purchase appropriately updated equipment for the lectures.
- allow us better to support arts in the community through our Young Arts and Heritage work
- offer a wider range of events such as visits and special interest days

What is the process for applying for charitable status?

In order to apply for, and comply with, the Charity Commission and HMRC Regulations for charitable status the Committee has reviewed The Constitution of the Society and has made changes to the Constitution and Rules which will reflect the requirements of the Charity Commission and HMRC. Some changes to membership administration and how the General Data Protection Regulations are administered have also been incorporated in the updated Constitution..

A copy of the updated Constitution is available on the website.

<http://theartsocietycamberley.org.uk/>

Having secured the agreement of the membership of the Society the Treasurer will make appropriate application to the Charity Commission and HMRC for approval. This may take up to 12 months.

The Committee would urge members to attend the AGM and express their support for the resolutions.

If you have any questions about the resolutions, please contact the Secretary:
info@theartssocietycamberley.org.uk

Gift Aid

Signing a Gift Aid certificate enables charities to claim back from HMRC approximately 25% of subscriptions. It is only available if, as a member, you pay UK tax (or Capital Gains Tax) annually. It cannot be claimed under any other circumstance.

If you are a UK taxpayer and have not provided the Membership Secretary with a Gift Aid certificate the Committee would ask you to consider doing this.