



September 2018

To all Area Chairmen and Chairmen of Societies

Re: National Trust

As you are probably aware, The Arts Society is currently one of the National Trust's Appointing Bodies, and so is able to appoint someone to the National Trust's Council. Our current appointee is Miles Roberts, who was on our Board from 2007 to 2013. There are at present 24 such appointing bodies, but as part of the move to reduce the number of members of the National Trust Council (both elected and appointed), this figure is being reduced to 18. The National Trust is making its usual recommendation as to which organisations to vote for, and as a result of the criteria they have adopted, The Arts Society (together with another ten current appointing bodies including the CPRE, the Historic Houses Association, the RSPB and the Prince's Trust) is not one of those, but all will appear on the ballot paper which will be sent to all National Trust members.

If we are to maintain our position, we need to maximise the vote from our membership, and we should be grateful for your help in publicising the position on your Society websites, at your first meeting of the year, and if possible also in any specific communication to your members. Below is a possible form of words which you might like to use.

“To Society members who are also members of the National Trust

The Arts Society is currently one of the 24 Appointing Bodies entitled to appoint a member of the National Trust Council, but this figure is being reduced to 18. The general membership of the National Trust is due to vote this autumn on which organisations should be Appointing Bodies for the next six years. To maintain our position, it is therefore very important to ensure that as many Arts Society members as possible who are also members of the National Trust vote in this year's National Trust elections. This is therefore a plea to you to make sure that you vote. There will be 33 organisations on the ballot paper, and whilst you should vote for any organisations that you specifically want to see represented, it is not necessary to use all your votes – voting for Charity X just to use up your votes could mean that Charity X got elected rather than The Arts Society.”

Thank you.

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Chair, The Arts Society

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