ART

BUSINESS LOANS

ANNUAL REPORT 2026

DRIVING JOBS, GROWTH & INNOVATION

ART BUSINESS LOANS



This annual report comprises the Chairman and Chief Executive Reports and the Summary Financial Information of ART SHARE (Social Help Association for Reinvesting in Enterprise) Limited for the year ended 31st March 2026. This financial information is derived from the full financial statements which have been audited.

The auditors report contained within the Directors Report and Consolidated Financial Statements of ART SHARE (Social Help Association for Reinvesting in Enterprise) Limited for the year ended 31st March 2026 was unqualified.

Copies of the statutory account which were approved by the Directors on 26th June 2026 are available on ART's website www.artbusinessloans.co.uk

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Directors during the year under review to the date of this report:

Malcolm James Brookes	Director of SEB International and experienced NED
Kirsty Lee Davies - Chinnock	MD of Professional Polishing Ltd
Christopher Charles Davis (Deputy Chair)	Retired Area Regional Credit Director, Barclays Bank
Jonathan Peter Addis	Private Equity Adviser & CFO. Formerly Group CFO at UK Power Reserve
Darren Hodson	Corporate Finance Partner, Smith Cooper LLP
Dr Nicholas John Venning (Chair)	Former Marketing Director, Global Industries PWC
Dr Steven William Walker	Chief Executive, ART Business Loans
Rebekah Eden	Deputy Director for Analysis at the Dept. for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy
Thomas Horton	Head of Manufacturing ,Transport and Logistics Barclays Corporate Banking.
Graham Nicoll	Managing Director and Chartered Financial Planner, NCL Wealth Partners

Staff

Dr Steve Walker	Chief Executive
Yasar Irfat	Finance and Operations Manager
Martin Edmonds	Loans Manager
Graham Donaldson	Loans Manager
Rozna Haque	Loans Manager
Richard Steele	Loans Manager
Sudip Sangha	Finance and Operations Officer
Rebecca Pattar	Credit Controller
Joy Douglas	Marketing Manager Appointed 1/7/2026

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am pleased to report another highly positive year with loan delivery up by over 20%; this is in line with the wider enterprise lending across the CDFI sector nationally.

As outlined last year, of even more importance, the expected new capital and revenue support for growth has been obtained. The Community ENABLE Funding through British Business Bank provides ART with a certainty of capital to plan further uplifts in lending in the years ahead. This is complemented by targeted support for ART from JP Morgan which has enabled capacity building, systems enhancement, increased marketing activity and recruitment of critically needed additional staff.

All ART loans continue to be made to businesses after a bank has declined to meet fully their needs as a source of finance. For our CITR investors we retain and achieve the objective that over 75% of our loans are made in underserved areas and communities. The spread of sectors that ART supports remain wide and we continue to see an upward average deal size now over £70k and many larger deals where we are lending in partnership with others.

The increased support for the CDFI sector and the realisation that we can all help the wider economy with fair and appropriate finance for businesses is encouraging. Interest across all political parties appears strong and the potential of increased devolutionary powers should also assist in raising local business confidence.

We believe that we are now in a strong position to build upon recent growth and continue to provide appropriate access to finance for Midland's businesses. The medium to longer term outlook and opportunity for borrowers and growth in critical underserved sectors are at their most positive for many years.

As this will be my last Chairman's report, I reflect on a decade of challenging geo-political and economic shocks and, equally significant, the often counter-synchronised cycles of market demand and capital supply. ART has come through opportunity and adversity with flying colours!

It has been a privilege to serve and lead the governance and strategic direction of ART in which I have been supported by a diverse and talented Board and very able management team. I have every confidence in the continued success of ART and wish all well for the future.

Dr Nick Venning DL,
Chairman
August 26



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

During the first half of the last year demand was lower than expected with once again the vast majority of our deals reaching ART through our valued broker network which has been enhanced during the year. It has been encouraging to see efforts being made to resurrect the possibility of direct referrals from Banks themselves when they are unable to assist businesses fully, although national programmes and localised efforts remain at an early stage.

The disappointment from a referral point of view remains the lack of potential businesses seeking access to appropriate finance from ART and other CDFIs either direct or from the public sector and wider network other than our broker network. Businesses are still taking loan finance from algorithm online lenders at sometimes 3x the interest rate and over a shorter term than ART.

This is disappointing and as we have seen too often also harmful to the growth and even survival chances of businesses. Hopefully this will change with the latest local business support restructures and the efforts of British Business Bank whose increasing support for the CDFI sector is much appreciated. We hope and expect their efforts to include educating the wider business support arena.

The uplift in demand and resulting total loan delivery has, I am pleased to confirm, continued through to the first quarter of the new year and has indeed exceeded our already increased growth targets. This provides us all with much confidence for the future even in an ever-changing market for the years ahead.

As we begin our 30th year at ART, I am delighted that awareness of what we do appears to be increasing as is external support led by our trade association Responsible Finance to further enhance our own efforts. More tangible actions to grow the sector and levels of finance made available have emerged throughout the last year .

We have a very experienced and dedicated staff team who are a pleasure to work alongside, and my sincere thanks are extended to them all and also to Nick Venning and the Board for their continued support and guidance.

Dr Steve Walker,
Chief Executive
August 26



SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- Group Statement of Comprehensive Income
- For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026 £'000	2025 £'000
Turnover	1,205	1,304
Administrative expenses	(1,033)	(1,023)
Operating profit	172	281
Interest receivable and similar income	111	120
Interest payable and similar charges	(178)	(184)
(Loss)/Profit before taxation	106	217
Tax on (loss)/profit	2	(54)
(Loss)/Profit for the financial year	108	163

Group Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2026

	2026 £'000	2025 £'000
Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	26	10
Debtors	6,267	5,870
Cash at bank	5,529	4,610
	11,796	10,480
Creditors due within one year	(1,461)	(1,418)
Net current assets	10,335	9,062
Total assets less current liabilities	10,361	9,072
Creditors due after more than one year	(4,993)	(3,801)
Net assets	5,368	5,271
Capital and reserves		
Member share capital	1,182	1,169
Other Reserves	1,869	1,755
Retained Earnings	2,317	2,347
	5,368	5,271

Full Audited Accounts are available to view on ART's website

CASE STUDIES



AURA DANCE STUDIOS

Former UK professional dance champions Martin and Carol Cutler secured a £50,000 funding package from ART Business Loans in 2018 to help purchase a larger dance studio in Solihull and expand their business.

Since relocating, Aura Dance Studios has grown significantly, now delivering more than 25 classes and 100 private lessons each week to over 600 dancers of all ages and abilities. The business has also expanded its teaching team from 10 to 33 instructors and created a thriving community hub with its 250 seat theatre.

Martin Cutler said: "The funding from ART Business Loans enabled us to transform our business. We now have the space to grow, support more dancers and provide a welcoming environment for the whole community.

ART took the time to understand our vision and supported us every step of the way."

CASE STUDIES



TOTAL METAL RECOVERY

Scrap metal specialist Total Metal Recovery has expanded its recycling services after acquiring neighbouring skip hire business A-Z Skips with funding from ART Business Loans and BCRS Business Loans.

The acquisition has enabled the Bromsgrove family business to diversify its offering, safeguard seven jobs, create a new driver role and grow to a team of 17 employees across both businesses. Customers can now access a complete waste management service, from metal recycling to skip hire and waste disposal. Director Matthew Dunn said: "The funding allowed us to acquire A-Z Skips and offer a full waste service package to our customers. ART Business Loans and BCRS Business Loans took the time to understand both the opportunity and the people behind the business, and we are excited about the future."

ART Business Loans Business Lending Manager Roz Haque added: "This is a great example of how the right funding can help an established business diversify, grow and create new opportunities."

REGIONAL IMPACT 2016 - 2026



£ 24,751,445 TOTAL LENT



600 BUSINESSES SUPPORTED



4290 JOBS CREATED/ SAFEGUARDED



ART BUSINESS LOANS

Thank you to our members and supporters

unity trust bank

Responsible Finance

BLOCK

Supported by the Regional Growth Fund

British Business Bank

Birmingham City Council

For all enquiries on loans and investments or to support ART Business Loans

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