



FYLDE
DFAS

In the Picture

Letter from our Chair

Welcome to the first Fylde DFAS newsletter, which I hope you will enjoy. It will appear twice yearly and is edited by our Secretary, Marion Nuttall, assisted by volunteer Iain Williamson. This is YOUR newsletter so we will always be grateful for your contributions.

What a hectic few months we had in 2009 as the Committee came together to achieve the ultimate goal of creating a society of interesting and interested

like-minded people from across the Fylde. We received many offers of help from local businesses and

associations

and very generous financial support from Fylde Borough Council, which enabled us to invest in some good quality equipment.

In spite of occasional setbacks, everyone retained their undimmed enthusiasm and somehow we managed to inspire well over 200 people to join us for the memorable Inaugural Meeting in October attended by the National Chairman, Gri Harrison.

The hard work doesn't stop here, however, and we have devised a Development Plan to expand Fylde DFAS activity over the coming year. This includes creating a website, establishing Volunteering Projects, an arts and culture based holiday for Spring 2011, various excursions and Summer and Christmas events.

A Suggestions Box is now in place at the back of the Hall and we welcome your ideas for lecture topics, trips and holiday destinations. These ideas will help the Committee when it makes plans for the future.



Coastal Architecture is the subject of our June lecture. See inside. Photo David P, Wikimedia

Also please complete the evaluation form after each lecture if you find one on your chair; the feedback is invaluable. I am sure you will enjoy the programme in the months ahead. If you know anyone who might wish to join us, please contact Olga Depledge, Membership Secretary, on 01253 711706 or email her at olgadepledge@googlemail.com See you all soon.

Hilary Alcock

Fylde Decorative and Fine Arts Society

A Member Society of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies.

Members pursue a mutual interest in the arts through lectures on a wide range of decorative and fine arts topics including art, sculpture, jewellery design, architecture, garden design. Lectures are on the first Wednesday of every month at 2pm in the Hall of the St. Annes-on-Sea United Reformed Church, St. George's Road, Lytham St. Annes FY8 2AE.

Chair: Hilary Alcock Tel. 01995 670563
Vice-Chair: Philip Bailey Tel. 01200 423230

NOTICES

Membership cards

Membership cards are available for collection at lectures. Cards can be posted, but please try to remember to pick yours up as this helps to keep postage costs to a minimum. It is worth carrying your national membership card with you at all times as some galleries give a reduced entrance rate to NADFAS members.

Email addresses

If you would like to receive information by email but have not given us your address, please send it to our Membership Secretary, Olga Depledge, at olgadepledge@googlemail.com

Gift Aid forms

Included in this mailing is a Gift Aid form to complete if you are a tax payer and have not already done so. Please hand in to a member of the Committee.

Project your knowledge

If you know of anyone with computer projector expertise who could help the current team at meetings, the Committee would be grateful to hear from you.

Festive lunch

Our first special event, a Christmas Celebration and Festive Lunch at Lytham Hall on December 16, was a great success. Apologies to those on the reserve list who could not be accommodated.

Many treats to come in Lecture Programme

See our website at www.fyldedfas.org.uk for further information on all our future events

Wednesday 3 March

The GLASGOW BOYS, the GLASGOW GIRLS, the SCOTTISH COLOURISTS and the French Connection

Harry Fletcher

In the 1880s and 1890s, several artistic colonies arose in Europe and America following a style of painting known as 'naturalism'. The lecture considers the work of three such successful Scottish colonies and the valuable contribution they made to the development of the 'modern movement' in art.

Wednesday 7 April

HOW IS IT MADE? A closer look at Silver

Dr Helen Clifford



Photo Spiritia, Wikimedia

With a wealth of knowledge about antique and contemporary silver (and gold!), the lecturer will help us to understand the craftsmanship of items in museums and stately homes.

Wednesday 5 May

TITIAN to VAN DYCK: the ART of PORTRAITURE

Leslie Primo

Two master portrait painters will be cited to look at the interest and need for likenesses in portraiture and to learn how such paintings are used by those who commission them.



Wednesday 2 June



BESIDE THE SEASIDE - the Architecture of British Coastal Resorts

Mike Higginbottom

The lecture surveys the history of holiday towns associated with the newly-formed Victorian railway system. It highlights the rich architectural heritage of the heyday of the holiday industry.

Wednesday 7 July

The ROYAL and ANCIENT GAME - Golf and the British Queens 1120 and 1920

Bob Gowland

The lecture includes a royal element and has early references to golf-like games. The stick and ball games brought back by the Crusaders and developed in the Middle Ages are detailed along with further developments in the 18th and 19th centuries, including ladies' golf and the emergence of professionals.



Snow show: the hall on the day of our meeting

New date for snowbound January event

Due to ice and snow the January lecture was reluctantly postponed. However, we are pleased that our lecturer, James Malpas, has kindly agreed to another date later in the year, most likely Wednesday 22 September – please make a provisional note in your diary. We tried to inform all members of the situation, either by phone or email, and apologise if we were unable to reach you.

Should such dire weather conditions return, please check your emails before coming to a meeting, assuming you have previously given us your email address. We hope to continue our programme as planned throughout the winter including the AGM later in the year.

Kate Cartmell

Summer focus on sculpture

Sculpture is the focus of two exciting Fylde DFAS events and booking forms are enclosed with this newsletter.

On **Thursday 22 April** a Special Interest Day will be held at **Lytham Hall on Understanding Sculpture in the Twentieth Century**, led by Linda Smith, an experienced guide and lecturer at Tate Britain, Tate Modern and the Dulwich Picture Gallery. She has much ground to cover and will be breaking the day into three sessions.

Registration begins at 11.00am with tea and coffee on arrival. There will be a break for soup and sandwiches at lunchtime and a short tea break mid-afternoon. Tickets are £37.00 each, including all refreshments.

On **Wednesday 9 June** we have a day out to **Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Canon Hall Museum**. The Park is set in the picturesque grounds and gardens of a 500 acre, eighteenth century country estate and is one of the world's leading open-air galleries. The award winning Visitor Centre has

a gift shop and restaurant with stunning views over the landscape. There are also four indoor galleries, including the magnificent Underground Gallery. During this visit we will be able to view the rich and extensive exhibition of work by David Nash tracing the evolution of the artist's forty-year career and offering a vivid statement of his life's work. Included in the visit is a specialist tour (about 1 hour) led by YSP curators which will provide an academic insight into the collection. A light buffet will be served in a reserved area of the restaurant. Suitable footwear and clothing are recommended.

We will also visit Cannon Hall at Cawthorne, near Barnsley. The Entrance Hall is the core of the 17th century Hall, although it was substantially re-designed in the early 1760 by the eminent architect John Carr of York. The Hall has a Moorcroft Pottery Gallery and a decorative and fine arts gallery. The cost of £35 each includes coach travel and lunch.

Kate Cartmell and Barbara Weston

Vanishing gardens

BOOK REVIEW Japanese Gardens in Britain by Amanda Herries (Shire Publications 2001) £4.99

This is a small and inexpensive book that contains a brief but comprehensive account of the three types of Japanese garden (stroll or viewing garden, dry garden and tea garden) and the influences of Shinto and Buddhism on the evolution of their distinctive styles. Amanda Herries lectured on this subject at our November meeting. The book contains attractive photographs of gardens in Japan and in the West which illustrate well the points made in the text and the sharp contrast between dry, plantless gardens and the green tranquillity of stroll gardens. Following a clear description of the principles of Japanese garden design, the author devotes a lot of time to the arrival of Japanese plants in the West and the rise in popularity of Japanese gardens, which reached its peak in the early 20th century.

It was tourists and diplomats of the 1880s and 1890s who triggered the interest and not horticulturalists or explorers. Equally interesting was the section on the Universal Exhibition in London in 1862 which initiated a demand for Japanese art and artefacts, and the

*Japanese garden at Tatton
Photo Tom Pennington*



Exposition Universelle in Paris in 1867 where a hundred prints by Hiroshige and others initiated great excitement amongst artists and intellectuals.

It is sad to learn about the demise of Japanese gardens in the West, probably due in part to high maintenance needs and costs, as weather and soil conditions are compatible. Of sixty celebrated gardens created before the 1950s, many have disappeared and others have become overgrown.

The revival of interest at the beginning of this century is welcome, particularly the restoration of Gunnersberry, Rivington and Tatton. The latter two are within easy travelling distance of the Fylde and the restoration of Tatton in 2000 was considerably assisted by photographs showing the original layout and planting (1910). I was somewhat surprised to read that the preservation of such photographs is very rare.

I enjoyed the book and was inspired to do further reading but then I have always liked the serenity and tranquillity of Japanese gardens. **Marion Nuttall**

Chippendale, master of his craft

Taking advantage of our new found NADFAS membership, Christine Cockburn, Sue Tidman and I attended a talk on Chippendale by James R Lomax at the Ribble Craven DFAS at Whalley Abbey.

Thomas Chippendale, master of his craft, was baptised in Otley, a small market town in the Dales, on 5 June 1718. A cabinet maker and furniture designer, he started a business in St. Martins Lane, London in 1748. Never losing contact with his native county, he

was commissioned to furnish several of the grandest houses including Harewood, Nostell Priory, Denton Hall, Newby and Burton Constable. He was the first cabinet maker to publish a book of his designs in 1754. James Lomax showed slides on stages of Chippendale's work, including his early years through to the mid-Georgian and the Rococo eras to be seen at Dumfries House, which was recently saved by Prince Charles' intervention. **Marlene Seidel**

What's on at North West galleries?

We thought you would find it helpful to know some of the exhibitions that are planned or on now.

World Museum, Liverpool 13 Feb - 5 Sept: Plantastic On giant plants, their inner workings, variety and beauty.

Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool to 11 April: Atlantic Fire Art exhibition by Guyanese painter Aubrey Williams. **To 14 March: The rise of women artists** Features work by Lisa Milroy, Lavinia Fontana and Paulo Rego. **From 14 May: Fin de siècle Paris through the eyes of Toulouse-Lautrec** A collection of his prints.

International Slavery Museum, Liverpool to 28 Feb: Black Britannia Photographs by John Ferguson celebrating the contribution black people made to British culture over the last decades.

Lady Lever Art Gallery, Port Sunlight to 3 May: An Edwardian Family Album Photographic Exhibition giving a fascinating insight into the life of the Urton family of Bebington at the beginning of the 20th century.

Abbot Hall, Kendal to 6 Mar: Beattie [b1935]; Paintings from the Janus Series Two, 2010 Janus is the Roman god of doorways, passages, bridge endings and new beginnings.

Lowry, Salford to 11 April Anderson and Low. The Circus.

Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester to summer: The Manchester Indian. Thomas Wardle and India. **To summer: The Complete Roberta Breitmore.** **To May: Deep Rooted.** How Trees shape our Lives

Tate Liverpool to 25 April Afro Modern Journeys through the Black Atlantic.

Chapel Gallery, Ormskirk to 27 Feb Considering Sculpture and Print By artists from the Manchester Academy of Fine Arts.

Local Exhibitions Lytham St. Annes Art Society: Spring Exhibition 1 - 17 April at Fylde Gallery, Lytham.

Open Air Exhibition: Art in the Square 12 and 13 June in The Square, St. Annes.

Fylde DFAS Committee. Front row left to right: Olga Depledge, Barbara Weston, Hilary Alcock, Marion Nuttall. Back row L to R: Barbara Martin, Philip Bailey, Tom Houghton, Kate Cartmell



Society committee who's who

Olga Depledge (Membership Secretary): I was born in Switzerland and am a retired Civil Servant now living in St. Annes. I have a general interest in the arts, theatre, music, architecture and early twentieth century painting - portraits rather than landscapes. Like many people my interest in painting is easily traced to an inspirational teacher at school. If pushed I would probably pick Rembrandt or Georges de la Tour as my favourite artist. I also sing with LSA Choral Society.

Barbara Weston (Recruitment & Publicity): My love of the arts began many years ago when I was studying for a BA. At that time I was immersed in learning about painting in the period of industrialisation and was fascinated by the designs created by Morris. Now my interests have widened. I like pottery, especially Moorcroft, watercolours and travel and particularly enjoy visits to historic houses and galleries. I am a member of Lytham St. Annes Art and Civic Societies.

Hilary Alcock (Chair): I have been a NADFAS member for some years, initially joining South Lakes DFAS which meets in Kendal, but am thrilled we now have a flourishing Society in the Fylde. I trained as a teacher, worked in London and Birmingham and then in Higher Education as a lecturer and OFSTED Inspector. I moved into International Education and now am a freelance consultant. I am passionate about art and design!

Marion Nuttall (Secretary): My interest in art began when I studied for my degree in Biology before working in Higher Education first as a lecturer and more recently as a manager. I was fascinated by the design and beauty of plants and am currently learning botanical illustration. My other interests include tennis, reading, nutrition, garden design and visiting art galleries.

Barbara Martin (Refreshments Coordinator): I am a retired secondary school teacher and have had an interest in the arts for many

years. I am particularly keen on architecture, bridges and sculpture. My late husband and I were very privileged to have had contacts with the Society of British Sculptures. Through them I had access to work which is going on now among artists and artisans and which assists them in their work.

Philip Bailey (Vice-Chair): I have worked as an architect and town planner for over 30 years and have a professional involvement in conservation. My particular interest in art is the period 1890 - 1930 including architecture, ceramics and bronzes.

Tom Houghton (Treasurer): I trained as a librarian and spent the first part of my career working mainly in public libraries. This was followed by 14 years spent working in Higher Education and I have recently completed a Doctorate in management. My interests include classical music, especially choral music.

Kate Cartmell (Programme Secretary): Mine is a lifetime in Primary Education, with the emphasis on art and creativity: a seeing eye and a feeling for colour, pattern and design. After teaching in Cambridge, California and north of Watford came life as a Schools Inspector. I have travelled far afield absorbing a wealth of antiquities, architecture old and new and modern art. Now retired, my pleasure is in graphics, photography and care for both the natural and built environment.

Blackpool's theatre archives tell a grand story

The archives of the Grand Theatre, Blackpool, reflect the entertainment history of this extraordinary town. The collection contains the silk programme designed for the opening night's production of Hamlet starring Wilson Barret in 1894 and others record the visits of Lillie Langtry, Mrs Patrick Campbell and Sarah Bernhardt. The 1940s are a particularly rich source of famous names as the

Grand established itself as a leading theatre on the touring circuit, playing host to actors of the calibre of Noel Coward, John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson. In the war years many shows premiered in the town, as Blackpool was considered a safe haven from the bombing. The archives tell the stories of ordinary people as well as the stars. We read about the crews who worked all night to strip the

stage of one set and then build the next one ready for the following day's rehearsal. Also, let's not forget the people of the Fylde Coast who in 1972 embarked on the epic struggle to save the theatre from demolition. There are many stories to be told and, as archivists, we endeavour to conserve and cherish all aspects of the history of our beautiful theatre.

Geoff and Linda Tolson