



FYLDE
DFAS

In the Picture

www.fyldedfas.org.uk



*A castle in Syria - The spectacular 12th/13th century Krak des Chevaliers.
Read some impressions of Syria by Tony and Olga Depledge on page 4*

Our homage to David Hockney

On Wednesday 23 March we visit Salts Mill in Saltaire, Shipley, Yorkshire. Salts Mill was opened in 1853 for Titus Salt, who made a fortune in textiles. Salt believed it was his social duty to improve the lives of his workers for whom he built Saltaire Village. The mill and village are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our lecture in April covers the work of David Hockney, the Bradford-born artist, making this visit very appropriate as the 1853 Gallery displays the world's largest permanent collection of his paintings.

In the afternoon we visit East Riddlesden Hall. This National Trust property displays many of the features typical of a 17th century West Yorkshire manor house. An escorted tour of the house will be available. Booking forms can be downloaded from www.fyldedfas.org.uk

Christine Cockburn

Letter from our Chair

Welcome to the third edition of our Newsletter. You will notice it has doubled in size and we hope you will enjoy reading it and maybe spotting yourselves in the photographs taken by our resident, eminent photographer Julie England. We have another interesting, exciting and dare I say frenetic half year of activity to reflect on, coupled with the fact that you are such a lively (and ever growing) crowd with lots of fascinating things to recount, so we felt we needed more space for members to voice their thoughts!

Your Committee continues to meet monthly to ensure the smooth running of the Society including the provision of an attractive programme of visits, lectures and Special Interest Days, which I think you will agree get better and better. We are trying not only to vary the content of the Special Interest Days but also their locations and to work with other organisations, such as the Grundy Art Gallery and

North West Contemporary Arts, to spread the word about Fylde DFAS across the region. Please do help us by encouraging family members, friends and neighbours to join and share in the enjoyment.

With this in mind we held a very successful Italian Evening in November, again hoping to make more people aware of our existence, especially those still in full time employment. The Assembly Rooms in Lytham were

Continued on back page

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 01995 670563
Vice-Chair: Philip Bailey 01200 423230

Lectures and other dates for your diary

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

Wednesday 6 April

Blondes Have More Fun: The Art of David Hockney

Frank Woodgate

An experienced guide and lecturer at the Tate Galleries, Frank outlines the development of Hockney's work since the early 1960s. Hockney first became known for his graffiti-like paintings of homosexual love, at a time when the subject was somewhat taboo. Over the years he has painted in many different styles, experimenting with



photography and a wide variety of media.

Wednesday 4 May

The City of the Dragon: The History of the City of Krakow

Douglas Skeggs

Douglas is presently a regular lecturer at Christies in London. He has written and presented TV documentaries on several artists, and exhibitions of his paintings have been held in both the UK and Switzerland. The lecture gives an insight into the rich history and cultural treasures of the ancient capital of Poland until the 17th century - fascinating in its own right and an interesting introduction to our forthcoming Fylde DFAS visit.



Wednesday 1 June

Cassandre Style: Poster Art from Kharkov to Jeeves and Wooster

Charles Harris

Charles specialises in the history of a most exciting form of advertising, the art of the poster. A multi-award winning creative director, he offers lectures and presentations on the development of poster art from the 19th century

through to propaganda posters of the Third Reich and the techniques of modern advertising. Cassandre was a style guru with stunning high-fashion posters in the years leading up to the second world war.

Wednesday 6 July

Wonder Workers and the Art of Illusion

Bertie Pearce

Bertie Pearce inherited a fascination with conjuring from his maternal grandmother. With a BA (Hons) in Drama and further studies at the Ecole Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris, he has performed and lectured all over the world, sharing his passion for illusion, Victorian pastimes and Punch and Judy. His lecture offers a whistle stop tour of the

history of magic from the beginning of time to the 21st century, including the emergence of the music hall, with magic gaining a new respectability. We might be amazed - and bewitched!

Wednesday 13 July

Gardens of Goodly Delight

David Bostwick

A Special Interest Day at Lytham Hall, with a warm welcome return visit by David Bostwick, marking in style the end of our second year of Fylde DFAS. In the beautiful setting of Lytham Hall, currently about to embark on major changes both to the Hall and the grounds, David will treat us topically to the delights of Elizabethan and Jacobean pleasure gardens.

Kate Cartmell



Welcome cuppas for church visitors



In the Picture is edited by Marion Nuttall and published twice a year in March and October. Contact the Editor at inthepicture@iwcom.co.uk

Church Group starts work

Our Church Recording Group is now established under the leadership of Philip Bailey and Barbara Martin.

Barbara Martin writes: A visit to local churches was organised on 23 November and it was a cold but sunny day when we met at the United Reformed Church, St Annes. The visit was ably led by Philip Bailey who, with his usual enthusiasm and impressive knowledge of architecture and stained glass windows, gave a detailed description of eleven churches in Lytham St Annes. In the short time available we were able to visit the White Church, St Cuthbert's, Lytham Methodists, St Joseph's at Ansdell and St Annes Parish Church, where we spent a short time studying the interiors.

A Church Recording Training Day for those interested in being part of the Church Recording Group was held two days later at the White Church, Fairhaven. Jane Hedley, National Chair for Church Recording, and Sue Brennan, NE

Area Chair, travelled from York to lead the day, attended by twelve members.

The morning session was spent gathering information about what was involved in actually recording a church and how NADFAS expected the record to be prepared and presented. Jane and Sue passed on to us a great deal of knowledge and the benefits of their vast experience. We were able to ask questions and appreciated the informal way the day developed.

After lunch we were taken through the nine sections to be included in a report and shown how to observe, research and document our findings. We were set some challenges and encouraged to participate.

The whole day was a very good start. We agreed to begin the work at the White Church on 20 January. **Editor's Note:** DFAS welcomes non-members to be part of this group. Please contact Philip Bailey, our Vice-Chair (for phone details, see the panel on page 1).

Catherine and her
successful entry



Fylde student's work on show in London

Fylde DFAS members were delighted to hear that local art student Catherine Latham, of King Edward VII and Queen Mary's School, Lytham St Annes, was successful in her work being selected for display in the Royal Society of British Artists' annual exhibition at the Mall Galleries, London, from 2 - 13 March, part sponsored by NADFAS.

Harvested Cabbage, a sculpture of ceramic and felt, was submitted as part of Catherine's A-level work and was the only entrant from the north of England to be selected for this prestigious event. We have been reliably informed by experienced artists that the overall standard of the works submitted was exceptionally high. "I couldn't believe it. I was in complete shock and so happy," Catherine told us.

Fylde DFAS would like to thank all the A-level art students and teachers at Blackpool Vith Form College and King Edward VII and Queen Mary's School who accepted the invitation to participate. A selection of their work will be displayed at The Fylde Art Gallery, Booths, Haven Road, Lytham, from 6 March to 2 April 2011. Do try to see it.

Catherine said her inspiration came from traditional majolica pottery. "I wanted to create a modern take on it, using mixed media with contrasting materials. I was particularly drawn to the contrast between the matt felt against the glazed ceramic glossy leaves. Putting the sculpture together took about an hour but making all the individual pieces took a lot longer. Overall it took about two weeks." After A-levels Catherine is considering applying for the Foundation Course in Art and Design at Blackpool and the Fylde College. We wish her every success in the future.

Marion Nuttall

Members explore contemporary art

On Wednesday 16 February a Special Interest Day of workshops and discussions attracted a full house to the YMCA, St Annes. Led by Kerry Hunt (pictured), Education Officer of the Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool, the event explored some recent Grundy exhibitions and the work of many contemporary artists. Workshops involved simple practical activities, encouraging and enabling participants to both experience and consider several aspects of contemporary art.



Each of the three workshop sessions covered a different aspect of art; the first focused on ceramics, involving the handling of white clay to manipulate simple shapes and objects related to a specific story; the second session considered people, situations and stories happening within a photograph; and a practical task was set considering the creative use of space.

An informal, enjoyable, informative and thoughtful day was had by everyone. For many of us some experiences were completely new. **Kate Cartmell**

What's on in the North West

The Editor's roundup of current and forthcoming exhibitions

Liverpool Tate 1 April—5 June: A Sense of Perspective Challenges our tendency to define and limit our understanding and focus. *To 13 March: Nam June Paik* Showcases around 90 works and celebrates Paik as the inventor of media art

World Museum, Liverpool To 8 May: Inside DNA Interactive displays offer an insight into cutting edge science

Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool 27 March - 30 Sept: Dare to wear. Glass dresses by Diana Dias-Leao The artist explores issues around beauty and body image. *To 15 May: A Collector's Eye* Cranarch to Pissarro

Lady Lever Art Gallery, Port Sunlight To 2 May: Old Masters Drawings Guercino, Rubens, Tintoretto...

Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal 8 April - 25 June: Exhibition by the Cumbria born artist Sheila Fell. *To 26 March: Drawn from life* Includes the work of over 40 artists from S Asia, Australia, Europe, Middle East and US

Blackwell, the Arts & Crafts House, near Windermere 29 April - 10 July: Blackwell within A photographic exploration to celebrate Blackwell's tenth anniversary. *To 31 Dec: Pilkington's Pottery* Over 40 items showing delicate lustre ware. *To 27 April: Early British Photography in the Royal Collection* Selection of photographs collected by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert

Lowry Art Gallery, Salford Quays To 31 Dec: Lowry Favourites

Manchester City Art Gallery To 9 Oct: Exporting Beauty Pilkington's pottery and tiles

Local Exhibitions

Lytham St Annes Art Society 12 April - 7 May Spring Exhibition at Fylde Art Gallery, Lytham. *9 - 23 July Summer Exhibition* at Art Society Studio

Lytham Heritage Centre 8 - 27 March: British birds and views around the Fylde 29 Mar - 17 April: Northern Action Group 19 April - 8 May: A Vision of Colour 10 - 30 May: 30 Missions Mixed media by Roger Kirby

Fylde Art Gallery, Booths, Lytham 6 March - 2 April: Selection of Vith Form work for the Royal Society of British Artists/NADFAS Art Exhibition. *11 May - 4 June Embroiderv 2000*



Great
Umayyad
Mosque,
Damascus

Syria: Welcome, but don't eat the sweets

Syria is a large country with a population of about 22 million predominantly (but far from exclusively) Sunni Muslims. Tourism is developing fast and, with historical sites from Hittite to Roman to Ottoman, it deserves a place on every list of "places to visit in the Middle East".

Damascus and Aleppo lay claim to be two of the oldest, continuously-inhabited cities on earth. With a strategic position on the silk and spice routes, Aleppo is an attractive, multi-faith city (the Christian quarters show striking differences from the old town) with a World Heritage castle dominating its heart.

Everyone knows about St Paul and Damascus and the Street called Straight. A walk through the souk takes you to the outstanding Great Umayyad Mosque, with its shrine to John the Baptist and where Muslim tradition says that the Prophet Jesus will descend to earth on the Day of Judgement. The wealth of Syrian history and culture is almost overwhelming. Travel outside the cities is characterised by long trips on generally good roads (traffic discipline on motorways is, well, different – as is seeing a family of five on a motorbike with mother sitting side-saddle cradling a sleeping infant). Places to visit include: Palmyra (astonishing Roman city); Apamea (also Roman); Bosra (a Roman theatre that is genuinely breathtaking: it can – and still does – seat about 15,000) and Krak des Chevaliers (a seriously beautiful crusader castle).

Damascus and Aleppo are bustling and exciting and feel utterly safe. Visiting as a tourist provides no real chance to talk politics (the one-party state is ruled by young President Assad – formerly an ophthalmic surgeon in London) but it's impossible not to be beguiled by the charm and friendliness of Syrians. Syrian tradition does not hold with begging or hassling visitors: of course, someone will invite you to visit their shop, but a polite "no thank you" will elicit a smile, "welcome" and good wishes for your stay.

In Aleppo a young trader fell in step with Tony in the central souk: he enquired where Tony was from and asked if he would like to visit a handicraft shop. When Tony declined his offer, he said "Welcome to Syria, but don't eat the sweets." "Why not?" "Because," he said, smiling and walking away, "British people are sweet enough already".

Tony and Olga Depledge

Note: The Royal Academy, London, is said to be planning a major Syria exhibition for next year.

Members go out and about in search of arts and adventure



Mallorca: A home of modernism

Forget the sea, sand, sun and sangria. The holiday island of Mallorca – easily reached by air from Blackpool during the summer months – is successfully reinventing itself as a more up-market destination for art lovers.

The capital Palma, with its medieval streets, stately palaces and magnificent cathedral, has long been a cultural magnet for tourists looking for something more stimulating than a traditional beach resort. But the latest art gallery to open is 15 miles away from Palma in Sóller, a little town set in a lush valley surrounded by orange groves and spectacular mountains on the northwest coast.

The Ca'n Prunera gallery, in what was until recently a privately-owned art nouveau house, contains a permanent collection of 'modernist' works by Picasso, Miró, Magritte, Matisse and many others, as well as featuring interesting examples by lesser-known artists from or inspired by the Balearic islands.

The building itself is the real star of the show, however. This fabulous house – with an inspirational central spiral staircase and showy tiled floors – was completed in 1911 to a design by Joan



Left,
detail
from the
main
hall;
right,
facade
from the
street;
below,
detail of
floor
tiles



Rubió i Bellver, who was an architectural assistant of Gaudí and also designed the facade of the local parish church and the bank next door in the town's picturesque main square.

Like many other grandiose properties in Sóller, Ca'n Prunera reflects the huge wealth in the area a hundred years ago – a time when emigrants were returning to the island and flaunting the considerable fortunes they had amassed while working in South America or mainland Europe. Now the period furniture, fixtures and fittings have all been lovingly restored to their original glory with the help of grants from the EU, the island council and the locally-owned railway company.

If you do visit Ca'n Prunera, be sure to arrive in town via the 1929-vintage electric train from Palma and to visit the Picasso and Miró exhibits at the rail terminus in Sóller. This, rather fancifully, is reputed to be the oldest railway station in the world, as it was converted from a fortified manor house dating back to 1606 when the line first opened in the early 1900s.

After all this culture you can finally allow yourself some sea, sand and sun at the nearby Port de Sóller – but again I would recommend the local transport, this time a vintage tram run by the same railway company. All transports of delight, indeed.

Iain Williamson

Hilary Alcock and I combined the last NADFAS annual meeting in London with a visit to the Christopher Lloyd Exhibition at The Garden Museum, Lambeth.

The exhibition offered a unique perspective on the life and work of one of the great characters of 20th century gardening. Born in 1921, Christopher Lloyd lived and worked at his family home, Great Dixter in East Sussex, where he created one of the world's best loved gardens.

The exhibition brought together personal objects (including his gardening galoshes), recollections and stories from friends, examples of his writing and stunning images.

The most exciting photograph was of Christo's (as he liked to be called) border at

London: This museum is a rare oasis of calm

Great Dixter, in which there is a profusion of plants with flamboyant colours in combinations which never fail to provoke passionate discussion, particularly as it was formerly a rose garden in pale soothing shades of pink and white.

The Garden Museum itself is well worth a visit offering a small walled garden, an oasis of calm amidst the hustle and bustle of London. There is also a cafe selling delicious coffee and cakes and an attractive programme of events catering for a wide range of interests and a high level of involvement from the local community. We left regretting that we live too far away to be regular users of the Museum but vowing to return.

Marion Nuttall

Edinburgh: Back to 1796

In September I visited Edinburgh with my grandson Edward. We had a hectic and exciting four days seeing as many sights as possible including the Military Tattoo, which, to us, was the highlight.

Using the tour buses we travelled around Edinburgh, which is abundantly endowed with memorable buildings. Charlotte Square, in the New Town, is lined with elegant Georgian Houses surrounding a leafy public garden and is particularly attractive. The north side of the Square was designed by Robert Adam in 1791.

Number 7 Charlotte Square is a National Trust of Scotland House and has been elegantly furnished throughout. It is arranged as it might have been when the house was first occupied in 1796. Furniture and equipment are on display dating from the last quarter of the 18th century from the reign of George III, with particular emphasis on the period 1790-1810. I enjoyed looking in the Drawing Room and Dining Room, which had been arranged in a formal manner showing how they were used for entertaining.

The Parlour was more informal and intimate than the Drawing Room and was essentially a room to be lived in. Around a central table chairs were grouped where members of the family could read, do needlework, take tea etc. Unusually, one of the main bedchambers is situated on the ground floor, overlooking the garden at the back of the house.

One room in the basement has been fitted with an audio-visual presentation where we could sit and watch a film showing life in the house at the beginning of the 19th century and we found this particularly interesting.

In each room members of staff were dressed in the costumes of the time and were all very enthusiastic, informative and some very funny and rather eccentric! Edward and I really enjoyed exploring this house and recommend it as well worth a visit.

Christine Cockburn

Charlotte Square - No 7 is to the left



Fylde DFAS responds eagerly to pilot for national art project

The UK has an outstanding national art collection of 200,000 oil paintings, held in a vast range of public institutions. There are masterpieces in major galleries, hidden gems in local museums and town halls and even art in fire stations, hospitals and schools. Although owned by the public, 80 per cent of the paintings are not on display. They are either hidden in storage or in buildings that are not accessible to the public.

To ameliorate this situation the BBC, in partnership with the Public Catalogue Foundation (PCF) and the Universities of Oxford and Glasgow, are launching the groundbreaking *Your Paintings* website in summer 2011. *Your Paintings* will bring together all these artworks, with the stories behind them and where to see them in reality. Whether you are a student, historian, art lover or just interested in discovering our hidden heritage, for the first time you will finally be able to see the incredible art that we all own.

For many years NADFAS has had strong links with the PCF and a number of societies have helped to catalogue the oil paintings held in many public collections within various counties. These have been

published in book form. The PCF sought the support of NADFAS members to build on their previous work, which will see the catalogues of pictures in every county located on the new website. Fylde DFAS responded enthusiastically to the invitation to take part in the pilot of this major national project.

Using a specially designed computer programme as an aid, the classification process started in late January and many of our members took part in the pilot project in November/December last year. Ahead of this site going live, the BBC and the PCF wanted us to help classify these paintings so that they could easily be searched, accessed and identified. Currently there simply is not enough information about each painting to allow them to be defined by criteria such as subject matter

We are reliably informed that some DFAS members enjoyed taking part in the project so much they could not tear themselves away from the computer. They found the process easy to use and saw some really wonderful paintings. One of our members, indeed our youngest, kindly wrote the article below. **Marion Nuttall**

Become a friend of our local art collection

Were you aware that Lytham St Annes has its very own art collection housed in the Town Hall and that the oil paintings are being recorded and included in the national on-line catalogue currently being constructed by the BBC for use as a huge fine art reference resource?

There are well over 200 paintings, sculptures, bronzes and ivories in the Collection, which was begun in 1925 when John Booth of the local grocery company donated a painting by Richard Ansdell called The Herd Lassie. This was just the start of a steady stream of bequests and donations - in particular the involvement of Alderman James Dawson, which started in 1931 when he gifted Ansdell's impressive The Partridge Shoot to the Collection. His interest increased and led to him giving over 50 works of art to the Borough, many by well established Victorian artists. The most important painting in the Collection is Henry Fuseli's The Vision of Catherine of Aragon, generally regarded as his masterpiece and in great demand for major exhibitions at home and abroad.

Selections of the paintings are frequently exhibited at the Fylde Art Gallery in Booths, Lytham, and other art galleries in the county, so we are all able to benefit from this wonderful legacy. However, some of them are in dire need of conservation and tender loving care. This work needs to be done sooner rather than later.

Alderman Dawson's granddaughter and Fylde DFAS Member, Margaret Race, has campaigned tirelessly to bring the collection to the attention of the local community and the public as a whole, and has now formed an association, Friends of the Lytham St Annes Art Collection. The purpose is to further develop that awareness and mount regular exhibitions of the treasures so that all local residents will have the opportunity to enjoy this unique inheritance. There will be fund-raising events to support the conservation and opportunities to become involved in invigilating (sitting in and overseeing) major exhibitions, as well as invitations to previews.

If you wish to join, please contact Reta Midgeley, at 177, Blackpool Road, Ansdell, Lytham St Annes, FY8 4AA and enclose a cheque for £5.00.

Beware, tagging can be addictive!

Being part of the tagging project *Your Paintings* by the Public Catalogue Foundation has been a great experience. Not only do you get the opportunity to comment on some of the great masterpieces but you can also begin to fully appreciate paintings by lesser-known artists from around the world, whose works form part of the nation's collection of 200,000 oil paintings.

Tagging is easy and requires no previous knowledge of art because the process is set out in a simple format, but you do feel remarkably clever once you've tagged a few (almost a true professional!) This is an especially good feeling because you are helping to preserve the nation's fine artwork in both galleries and storage warehouses, at the same time as having great fun.

I did get a little obsessed – tagging 30 paintings in a few days – but I really enjoyed the chance to analyse all the various features of paintings as well as expanding my artistic vocabulary.

Unfortunately, the pilot has now ended but hopefully when it comes back as a full-time project in the summer, I'll be able to get addicted again and I would definitely recommend it to anyone with an interest in art.

Katrina Kelly (aged 13)

Sifting the myths from the real achievements of L S Lowry

Our November Special Interest Day at Wrea Green was based on the life and work of the popular artist L.S. Lowry, RA (1887-1976), well known for his familiar pictures of Northern mills and life in the industrial landscapes of Manchester and Salford.

Our lecturer was Michael Howard, a senior lecturer in Art History and Design at Manchester Metropolitan University, who has wide experience in lecturing and is author of numerous publications on several 19th and 20th century artists. These include 'L.S.Lowry: A Visionary Artist'. Michael also helped to create the film now shown permanently at The Lowry, Salford, used as an introduction to the background of the artist and to

Michael Howard discusses his book on Lowry with a member of the audience. Below: Lowry memorial at Mottram in Longdendale.



the changing exhibitions of his work. There were three lectures, the first giving an overview of the life and work of the artist. The other two lectures made reference to aspects of 'The Loneliness of Lowry', a recent exhibition at Abbot Hall, Kendal; the changing exhibitions on the artist at The Lowry, Salford; and also, as an artist, Lowry's connections with Lytham.

Michael shared numerous personal anecdotes arising from his long-standing research into Lowry and the prolific development of his work, dispelling many myths and sentimental stories that have grown

around this popular artist. We were able to appreciate the real achievement of Lowry's art and to value the importance of his standing as an artistic figure, recording both the social history and urban environment of his time but also revealing a depth of feeling and sensitivity towards the subject as reflected in his paintings.

It was well attended and a most enjoyable, informative and thought-provoking occasion.
Kate Cartmell

'Lowry's work seems to have followed me around...'

Finding out more about Lowry was fascinating for me because I was born and spent my early years where Lowry did much of his sketching. I feel that I have a certain affinity with him and his work because of my familiarity with the parts of Salford he used as inspiration and settings for his art.

I was particularly impressed with the way lecturer Michael Howard explored and explained Lowry's extensive artistic skills through the study of one particular painting, Street Scene Pendle. His focus on the lines and the vanishing point and the religious link with the baby in the pram as a Madonna were revelations to me.

Lowry's work seems to have followed me around. Although I had visited Salford Art Gallery to view his work in my teens, it was only when I taught in Sussex and used the song Matchstalk Men and Matchstalk Cats and Dogs as part of a drama production that my interest was reignited. I know our lecturer was somewhat dismissive

of the song, but it inspired the children to look more closely at the work of this particular artist and as a result they produced some interesting and thoughtful interpretations in the Lowry style.

Having moved 'up north' for a headship I spotted a Lowry gracing the staffroom wall of Kirkham & Wesham County Primary School. Built of good northern Accrington brick, the school and the mill streets surrounding it reminded me of Lowry's pictures and the print in the staffroom was one of his paintings of Kirkham's market square.

A friend bought me a copy of Lowry's Man Lying on a Wall and



I gave it pride of place in my office. Lowry liked vertical imagery yet in this painting the horizontal aspect is a key feature. I treated the painting as a very restful distraction and finding out more about this particular picture and its origins from Michael was quite thought-provoking.

Lowry wasn't quite done with me yet though. On attending my first meeting of St Anne's Town Council at St. Margaret's Church Centre, I was amazed to see yet another Lowry print on the wall. It seems that whatever I do, he is keeping an eye on me!

I learned so much more about Lowry, his life and more importantly his times during the workshop. Michael Howard put Lowry's work into a very evocative social context and one I had never fully appreciated before and as a result it has made Lowry's work more meaningful for me.

Tony Ford

Councillor Tony Ford JP is Mayor of St Annes

Letter from our Chair *(from page 1)*

packed to hear the local architect and gifted watercolourist, Hugh Ellwood, deliver a wonderful lecture and digital presentation on the Italian Renaissance, preceded by a glass of chianti and some delicious Italian-themed food. It was a fantastic evening. "When are we having another?" someone was heard to ask the Committee, who by that time were just about dead on their feet! It was then announced that we had raised £700 for our Young Arts Project too, so we quickly became rejuvenated in time to cope with the washing up!

Heritage Conservation is our next focus and we are hoping to become part of a team of invigilators for major exhibitions at the Fylde Art Gallery alongside other organisations, such as the Friends of the Lytham St Annes Art Collection, who also have an interest in preserving the heritage of the Fylde. In addition we are supporting the very worthwhile cause that is Lytham Hall's Appeal. We have already been able to send a contribution of £150 due to the generosity of the membership in the Loose Change Collection. We will be devoting some time to planning the most effective way of doing more in the months ahead and are always pleased to receive

Members celebrate Christmas at the Grand Hotel



new ideas, so do make use of the Suggestions Box at the back of the Hall ... or pin one of the Committee to the wall (joke!) That reminds me: we are looking for a new Committee Member to co-ordinate Heritage aspects of our activity. If you are interested, do get in touch.

Fylde DFAS certainly isn't all work and no play, and we had a wonderful Christmas Celebration at the Grand Hotel in St Annes in mid-December. Beforehand we were entertained by a miscellany of



Tasty offerings at the Italian Evening

Christmas music provided by a group of singers from the Lytham St Annes Choral Society. Helen Carr from the Art Room Gallery in Garstang manned a stall covered with a range of high quality local craft items. The dining room, breathtakingly decorated with huge ostrich feathers and black and silver baubles, provided a magical venue for a sumptuous lunch. Guests were so complimentary that before she left, the organiser, Barbara Weston, had made a repeat booking, so please make a note in your diaries to keep Thursday 15 December 2011 free.

The next few months are going to be just as exciting with a range of events, outings and of course our trip to Krakow. I hope you will participate in as many activities as you can, because your involvement and support makes our Society the best it can be. **Hilary Alcock**

Young Arts Project makes ambitious first year progress

Ambitious and exciting plans have evolved for "Mr. Lowry in Lytham St Annes", our Young Arts Project. This is a cross-curricular activity and competition for local primary schools and we are grateful to have received funding from St Annes Town Council and Fylde Borough to support it.

Fylde DFAS is committed to contributing additional funds to meet the full costs of the project. Our main fund-raising event, the Italian Evening, raised over £760 and the book raffle at monthly lectures is helping us to the target.

The project supports the National Curriculum and aims to

inspire young pupils with a lasting enthusiasm for the arts. Schools may interpret the title to make cross-curricular links in whatever ways they wish, using the opportunity to develop creative thinking skills.

For example, pupils may use a Lowry painting as a starting point for writing a story or poem, or they may take photographs of local buildings and people and then use these as inspiration to create artwork. Another idea would be to research Lowry paintings such as Fylde Farm and Yachts at Lytham, then discuss how these paintings differ from the same places today.

The competition culminates in an exhibition of the artwork and portfolios selected for short-listing. The artwork will be professionally framed and hung in the Fylde Gallery at Booths, Haven Road, Lytham during September 2011.

The Year 6 class from the school with the best individual entries and portfolio will be offered the chance to attend a creative workshop at the Lowry Gallery in Salford. There will also be prizes of art materials or books for schools and individual entries. So far schools have responded enthusiastically.

Barbara Weston & Kate Cartmell