

In the Picture

www.fyldefas.org.uk

Birdies fly in for the Open Golf

Creating and implementing a community arts-based project was to be one of the Society's activities for 2012, which was set to be such an exciting year for everyone – we had the Jubilee, the Olympics and the Open Golf Championship. But which event to choose for our project? We decided to go with the Golf and living in an area that is so important for marine and wetland bird life, it wasn't too difficult to come up with the It's a Birdie title.

Of course, the Open Golf is a vitally important event for the area in terms of revenue and kudos but what does it mean to the ordinary St Annes resident? We wanted to create a project that would involve adults and children for whom the golfing event might otherwise pass them by. Coming on the heels of last year's Mr Lowry in Lytham St Annes project, however, we knew we had a hard act to follow.

A small team was created to get the project off the ground. None of us had any experience of funding or organising an arts project of this scale. Securing the necessary finance was a lengthy process and during this anxious time our initial ideas morphed several times into an entirely different project from our original plans. With the backing of a £10,000 award from the Arts Council; £2,000 from Fylde



Fylde DFAS Chair Hilary Alcock unveils Birdsworth

Local Strategic Partnership; £1,000 from NADFAS and £1,000 from Fylde DFAS, we were able to undertake three major projects with professional artists as well as organise a number of community-based events.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was an obvious partner and we were delighted to

Continued on page 7

Letter from our Chair

Well, here we are again at the start of another year in the life of Fylde DFAS. As I write this I am aware that our readership will contain some new members as well as those who joined midway through the 2011 / 12 season.

I thought it might be useful therefore to remind you briefly of what Fylde DFAS is about and its relationship with the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies.

We are affiliated to NADFAS which is a leading arts charity widely acknowledged for its valuable work in arts education and heritage conservation and are one of more than 350 societies worldwide with a membership of over 90,000 men and women.

As you will find out, we are a local provider of high quality and wide ranging lectures and we hope you like our newly designed Programme Card which tells you

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: Marie Riley 01253 713003

Lectures and other dates for your diary

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

Wed 7 November

Samuel Foote: One-legged comedy super star of the 18th century stage

Ian Kelly



Samuel Foote was the most notorious and best-loved man in

Georgian London. A one-legged comedy superstar, he wrote a series of hit comedies for one-legged actors (for obvious reasons, not often revived). He was definitely the first celebrity impressionist and has some claim to be the founding father of the British sense of humour.

Thurs 15 November

Afternoon Tea with Joshia Wedgwood

Thurs 29 November

One Man Two Guvnors: Theatre trip

Wed 5 December

Merrily on High – The history of the English Christmas Carol

Peter Medhurst

Peter will trace the progress of the English carol through seven centuries of continuous development and reveals that behind many of the apparently unassuming seasonal songs lie some fascinating stories.

Wed 19 December

Christmas Lunch

Wed 9 January 2013

Lost on the Titanic: The story of the Great Omar Binding

Dominic Riley

When completed in 1912, the Great Omar was the most elaborate and opulent binding ever created. It was embellished with over one thousand jewels, five thousand leather onlays and a hundred

square feet of gold leaf. It took a team of craftsmen over two and a half years to make. It went down with the Titanic. We hear the moving story of life after the Titanic tragedy and of one young man in particular, who decided to recreate the binding.

Wed 5 February

My Day with Salvador Dali

Peter Webb

Peter gives an account of the fascinating day he spent with Salvador Dali at his house in Lligat, Spain, in 1962. This will lead to an examination of the extraordinary ideas present in his paintings which seem to illustrate many of Freud's theories in his *Interpretation of Dreams*, even though Freud himself found them difficult to fathom.

Friday 22 February

Special Interest Day: Pulling Pictures Apart

Alexandra Drysdale

Three lectures will offer a variety of stimulating and fun activities for everyone. To participate in each activity will involve pulling pictures apart into colour, light, form and subject matter.

Your critical faculties will be stretched in all directions but by the end of the day you will be far more aware of the visual language that artists use. You do not need to be an art historian or artist to enjoy the day - just a love of art and a playful temperament.

Wednesday 6 March

Ruskin and the Pre-Raphaelites

Prof. Michael Wheeler

John Ruskin was England's most influential art critic,

launching his career with *Modern Painters* in which he argued that Turner was England's greatest landscape painter. Ruskin went on to support the Pre-Raphaelites and attack Whistler. Michael Wheeler, author of



Ruskin's God and formerly founding Director of the Ruskin Centre at Lancaster University, investigates the professional and personal relationships between Ruskin and Millais, Rossetti and Holman Hunt. Kate Cartmell

The Lakes and Harewood among 2013 trips

Following the lecture John Ruskin and the Pre-Raphaelites next March, a day out is planned to the Lake District. First we will visit the Ruskin Museum which opened in Coniston in 1901 as a memorial to the man and a celebration of the area's heritage. The museum has an extensive Ruskin collection of paintings and artefacts and also has exhibits relating to lace, slate, geology, farming and Donald Campbell. After lunch we visit Brantwood, where Ruskin lived

from 1872 to 1900. It is filled with many fine paintings, beautiful furniture and personal treasures and is one of the most perfectly situated houses in the Lake District.

In July we will be visiting Harewood House, the magnificent Yorkshire home of the Queen's cousin, the Earl of Harewood. Nestling in landscaped grounds designed by 'Capability' Brown, this is one of the great treasure houses of England and is famed for its magnificent architecture and art collections. The house was built in 1772 and designed by the leading architect John Carr of York, who also designed Lytham Hall. It contains world class art collections

including watercolours by Turner, who stayed at Harewood under



Mary, Princess Royal by James Jebusa Shannon

the patronage of Edward Lascelles. There are family portraits by Gainsborough and Sir Joshua Reynolds. Princess Mary, the Princess Royal and Lord Harewood's mother, lived at Harewood from 1929 until her death in 1965 and there is plenty of royal memorabilia on display.

I hope I have tempted you to come on both these excursions. Christine Cockburn

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

Obituary: Stanley Warburton, truly a man of many parts

Artist, teacher, golfer, widely read and passionate about music, Stanley Warburton worked as an engineer and draughtsman — a man of many parts and skilled in all of them. He died on August 12 aged 93.

Stanley was born in Heywood, lived in Rochdale and retired to Lytham St. Annes. As a boy he was fascinated by his paternal grandfather's paintings, which adorned the walls of his grandmother's home. The Bury artist died the year Stanley was born but his work inspired the young Stanley to try his hand at painting.

He has said that when he was young he spent all his spare time painting, golfing and attending concerts. He also visited art galleries and JMW Turner's Liber Studiorum (Book of Studies) in Bury Art Gallery was a huge influence. Stanley grew to love the romantic landscapes of Turner and his contemporaries.

Although mainly self-taught, Stanley amassed an academic knowledge of the different techniques of many artists, being influenced in the early stages by Cezanne, Vlaminck, Stanley Spencer, the Nash brothers and Wilson Steer. However he had been advised by LS Lowry "not to read too much nor to see too many paintings by other artists but to retain his own vision".

But how could he not visit art exhibitions? From the bicentenary of the master's birth, Stanley became an expert on Turner. This is illustrated in the video "A walking conversation with Luke Casey following Turner's footsteps", which can be accessed by googling Stanley Warburton and clicking on to the heading Stanley Warburton in the Dales.



The Road to World's End by Stanley Warburton in the collection of the Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

During his lifetime Stanley held many prestigious roles, for example President of the Lytham St Annes Art Society, Chairman of the Northern Branch of the Turner Society and Vice-President of the National Turner Society. He

What's on in the North West

Please note this feature is now published exclusively on our website, fyldefas.org.uk, under the title Exhibitions, where information is regularly updated.

lectured regularly for many years at most of the North West art societies and one of his collectors tells the story of how Stanley followed the main speaker at the Athenaeum in London and gained the greater applause!

His great joy was to travel at home and abroad to sketch and paint but he also curated a few exhibitions, notably Turner and Dr. Whittaker at Towneley Hall, Burnley, in 1982 following which

Stanley himself had a retrospective exhibition two years later. He currently has oil paintings in the Leamington Spa Art Gallery and watercolours in several North West public art galleries.

Stanley did, as advised by Lowry, find his own style which many of us saw earlier this year at the Fylde Art Gallery, Lytham in An Art Refined, where nearly seventy of his works were displayed, most of them kindly loaned by his collectors. The exhibition was Stanley's great pride and joy. He was thrilled to have had a last display of his life's work and to entertain his long standing friends from so many parts of the country, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cornwall, Norfolk, Scotland and Wales. You can see a video of the exhibition's preview by googling Stanley Warburton and clicking on One Man Art Exhibition.

Fylde DFAS was proud and pleased when Stanley accepted an Honorary Membership in March of this year. Veronica McDonnell

Volunteers take Fylde DFAS

Church Recording nears conclusion

Our March Newsletter included an article written by Ann Bullick, who is an active member of our Fylde DFAS Church Recording Group. She gave an interesting account of how NADFAS Church Recording started about 40 years ago and how we came to adopt the United Reformed Church, known as the White Church in Fairhaven, as our first project.

Our five sub-groups have been busy in the past few months and a lot of work has been undertaken. The textile and woodwork groups have completed their research and the metalwork group is nearing the end. I am drawing a plan of the Church and then the only outstanding work to be done is on the library, history and stained glass.

The group has participated in Tuition & Training Days led by the NADFAS NW Area Coordinator. These have proved both enjoyable and invaluable and as the time for presenting the information approaches, I arranged for a group of Church Recorders from Bolton DFAS to meet our group in August to advise on the best ways to do this.

The Record which will be published is really a book which contains information recorded in a church at a certain time and does not contain any narrative content or subjective commentary on the items. Five copies of this will be produced — one for the church, one to the local archives for research and the others for NADFAS House to forward to the V&A Art Library, Church Buildings Council Library and to the National Record Centre. This last archive houses all the English Heritage documents and maps plus the National Trust Records, so our Record will be kept in good company.

We are grateful to the White Church for providing very welcome cups of tea. We still have a lot of work to complete on the White Church and then we will be discussing possible new projects. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact me. Lack of experience is not a problem as training and support are provided and members of all religious denominations, or of none, are welcome. Philip Bailey

Volunteering: Your questions answered

Our Society needs more volunteers and getting involved provides opportunities to meet new friends with similar interests and learn new skills. Our volunteers are friendly, supportive and enthusiastic so do give serious thought to joining us. Meetings are enjoyable social events.

Question: Who are the volunteers?
Answer: Volunteering is a way in which NADFAS members bring their experiences to the broader community by involvement in Church Recording, Heritage Volunteering and Young Arts projects.

Q: Why are Societies involved?

A: Many members want to ensure our cultural and artistic heritage is preserved. They are enthusiastic, want to have fun, learn new things and make a difference.

Q: What do they do?

A: *Heritage Volunteers* help to preserve our national heritage by archiving, stewarding and conserving, for example, books and textiles in museums, galleries, National Trust properties, historic houses and libraries. Fylde DFAS is currently involved with other Societies in a needlework project to produce a kneeler for Stonyhurst College Chapel. In the future we are hoping to submit a Heritage Lottery Bid with the Friends of the

Lytham St. Annes Art Collection to research, photograph and catalogue it. Funding will be needed for training volunteers to learn how to handle the paintings, access public records and publish the catalogue. *Church Recorders* participate in recording the details of the internal fabric and furnishings of churches — see the report alongside. *Young Arts Projects* help ensure the future of the arts by raising enthusiasm among the next generation of artists and art enthusiasts. The range of art-based projects varies; some create a new insight based on first hand experience — for example appreciation of an artist's work or a visit to a gallery. For some children there might be opportunity to take responsibility for new tasks and skills. Two new national awards, the Discover Arts Award and the Explore Arts Award, were introduced in April. Fylde DFAS has supported a talented young Fleetwood paper sculptor and provided a photographic assignment for a student at Blackpool and the Fylde College. Last year we organised a competition for local primary schools, Mr. Lowry in Lytham St Annes. More recently we led a community art project to coincide with the Open Golf — see article on page 1.

Q: How do I get involved?

A: As a member of Fylde DFAS you are welcome to participate in any of our volunteering arms. Simply contact our coordinators, Philip Bailey and Angela Brown, whose e-mails are on the programme card or talk to them either before or after our lectures.

Q: Will someone tell me what to do?
A: Training is provided as necessary, often with professional conservators, advisors and curators.
Q: Will I be expected to work at home on my own?

to heart of our community...

A: Sometimes depending on the type of work. For example our Church Recorders work in sub-groups — textiles and stained glass are two examples.

Q: How often will we meet?

A: This varies depending on the type of work and the stage it's at. Our Church Recorders meet monthly. The tapestry volunteers meet weekly on alternate Mondays and Wednesday, 10am to noon. Marion Nuttall

Birdies fly in for Open Golf

Continued from page 1

work with artist Rebecca Chesney and the RSPB Ribble Discovery Centre at Fairhaven Lake to create a sound installation. Groups of volunteers went to various locations to record bird calls and song, which Rebecca then mixed to create a digital soundtrack, overlaid with familiar St Annes sounds such as a train going by, the noise of a bowls match and sounds of the sea. The resulting soundscape was played at various locations round the town, surprising customers and bringing the sound of birdsong into unexpected places.

Artists Chris Culshaw and Boz Phillips worked with Home Start Fylde to deliver an owl project, which saw the children create owl costumes and whole families getting involved in compiling photographic records of the workshops. Each child created a We Can Fly book containing images, poems and stories created during the project. A We Can Fly exhibition was mounted in St Annes Library and the children and families received their books at the Library Garden Party in July.

For our project with the Friends of St Annes Library (FoSAL), we commissioned mosaic artist Patricia Lee, who has created a number of birds and other exotic

creatures for schools, hospitals and community groups across the North West. We ran a number of workshops for both children and adults at St Annes Library. Participants were invited to decorate perspex birds and also to provide a name and a story for their birdies.



One of the glass fusion birdies on show at the Bedford Hotel, St Annes

These artworks were to provide inspiration for Patricia to create a unique bird for St Annes Library garden. The winning birdie design was Birdsworth who is, very appropriately for a library, a literary bird. Birdsworth was formally unveiled by Fylde DFAS Chair Hilary Alcock at FoSAL's Garden Party in July. He is situated by the storyteller's pergola and is already much loved by the children who visit the library and its garden.

The rest of the library perspex birds were displayed in various locations throughout the summer, including the cinema at Pleasure Island and various cafés and shops. The template proved to be very popular and was also used for a number of birdie workshops with groups of Rainbows and Brownies in St Annes. These birdies, together with a large number of owls created by Heyhouses Infants schoolchildren, have spent the

summer decorating the guide hut in Leach Lane.

One of the most rewarding features of the project has been the community groups we have worked with. Often adults will say that they 'can't do art' when what they really mean is that they have little opportunity to attempt it. Provide them with the right materials and they're away! The Friendly Gym in Lytham created lots of glamorous birdies from sequins and feathers. You may have noticed them on show in Sainsbury's, St Annes. Gym members also made some Olympic birds which were used to greet the torch bearers as they ran through St Annes early one morning in July.

A number of glass fusion workshops, held at the Bedford Hotel, proved to be very popular and resulted in some very professional looking pieces of art. St Thomas's Church made a flock of lovely doves which decorated the trees outside and which were seen by visitors walking to the Open Golf.

To attract and maintain the public's interest in the project, the team needed to use the media to our best advantage. A website was created (itsabirdie.com) as well as a Facebook page. We Tweeted, we compiled items for the local press and we spoke on Radio Lancashire. We also created a dedicated leaflet for residents and visitors telling them about the project.

Overall, nearly 600 people took part in the project and by the time of the Championship, St Annes was displaying birds in all sorts of venues. As a team we have learned a great deal; the next project will be easier — but not until we have all enjoyed a well earned rest! Some of our birdies, together with other pieces of avian art, were on display at the Fly Away Birdie exhibition at the Fylde Gallery in September. I hope you saw them before they migrated!

Pam Foster

Bowes Museum guides really made our day!

What a splendid place Bowes Museum is! Built in the style of a French chateau, it is a most striking piece of architecture set in a truly imposing location very close to the small town of Barnard Castle in County Durham.

The museum was created by the imaginative, visionary and enterprising John and Josephine Bowes. The foundation stone was laid by Josephine in 1869 but sadly she died before it was finished. John lived to see the completion of the building works but died in 1885, leaving trustees to end the project. The museum finally opened in 1892.

The museum, which Fylde DFAS visited in June, is home to both permanent collections and visiting exhibitions. Many of the permanent collections were amassed by John and Josephine

*Like a French chateau -
Bowes Museum*



and include a world renowned collection of ceramics, paintings, sculptures and objets d'art. The most well known of these is an automaton, the silver swan, which we all gathered to watch at two o'clock precisely as it caught a fish from the river. Over the years a Trust, followed by the formation of the Friends of the Bowes Museum and now a new charitable Trust established in the millennium, has maintained the building and administered the collections as well as purchasing new items for display.

There were several visiting exhibitions on display while we

were there including a fashion exhibition, photography and a hat display. However I must admit that some of us did choose to spend some time in Barnard Castle, which is an interesting and well planned small town. It has wide, spacious streets and a number of small, interesting galleries and boutique-style shops.

Last but not least I must mention the excellent lunch we had at the museum and thank all the volunteer guides who gave us a most interesting talk and guided us round a number of the galleries. They made our day!
Susan Cornah

Letter from our Chair

Continued from page 1

about them and the Special Interest Days. We also offer social events such as the Afternoon Tea with Josiah Wedgwood in November and the Christmas Lunch, as well as bespoke cultural tours, both abroad and in the UK, and exciting excursions to exhibitions, theatres and places of interest.

The programme for the 2012/13 season looks very entertaining and full of variety and we hope that you will participate fully. We are very inclusive and there is plenty of opportunity to make new friends and engage in activities in the company of people with similar interests.

However we are also a Society with not just a heartbeat but a social conscience; we have a strong desire to give something back. We therefore aim to offer grassroots support to the arts and heritage world through our volunteering groups. In the coming year, although we know how busy you are, we would love to see more of our membership getting involved.

There are three main groups of Volunteers: Heritage Volunteers who are involved in a tapestry project under the guidance of Helen Montgomery; Church Recorders who are completing a record of

the fabric and furnishings of the White Church so that future generations have access to an archive of material about it; and Young Arts which helps to get young people and members of the community involved in creative projects, competitions, exhibitions etc and, where appropriate, provides funding support to young artists.

There is also a possibility of a new heritage project coming on stream for those of you who are not stitchers, depending on achieving Heritage Lottery funding; more of that I hope in the next Newsletter. Finally can I encourage you to make good use of our marvellously comprehensive website which continues to be very up to date, informative and interesting.

There has been some research on the new Society app that was developed towards the end of last year and that is generating plenty of traffic from visitors to the site, particularly as the ownership of iPads increases. If you do not have a computer, public libraries are very helpful in helping you to gain access to the website.

Please raise a glass to a really great fourth season for Fylde DFAS!
Hilary Alcock