

In the Picture



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**It's a Birdie
project's
last flight**

Lectures and other dates for your diary

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

Wednesday 27 March

Day trip to the Ruskin Museum and Brantwood, Coniston

Wednesday 3 April

Legend and Lustre: Jim Thompson and Thai Silk

Denise Heywood

The lecture follows the extraordinary life of Jim Thompson who, having arrived in Bangkok as a US Army officer in 1945, fell in love with Thailand and stayed. Captivated by the lustrous beauty of Thai silk, he resuscitated an ancient craft in decline and made it famous, creating costumes for films and embellishing his historic house, which today is a museum.

Thursday 25 April

Curtain Up: Matcham's Grand Theatre

Evening event at Glendower, St Annes.

Wednesday 1 May

Art and Photography Monica Bohm-Duchen

"Every significant moment in art since the 1960s has asked, implicitly or explicitly: 'What is the relation of art to everyday life?' And so often that question has taken photographic form. Why? Because it is an everyday medium" (David Campary, Art and Photography). Using this claim as a springboard, the lecture will explore the complex and shifting relationship between art and photography since the 1960s by focusing on key aspects such as popular culture, war and feminism.

Monday 27 - 31 May

The Art & History of Bristol, Bath and Tyntesfield: five-day tour



Wednesday 5 June

Pomp and Circumstance: Royal Ceremonies from Coronations to Jubilees

Chloe Cockerill

Royal ceremonies have played an important part in the history of Great Britain from the earliest times to our present Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 60th Anniversary of her Coronation. This lecture includes the Orders of Chivalry, investitures, the annual Garter Ceremony at Windsor and why St George became our patron saint. From the orb to the sceptre, it will examine the significance of the symbols of sovereignty.

Thursday 20 June

Special Interest Day: New York, New York

Andrew Davies

Bustling, noisy, vibrant New York epitomises the modern city at its best (and its worst). Sailing past the Statue of Liberty, we begin by being processed as immigrants at Ellis Island before marvelling at this Leviathan of a metropolis whose skyline bristles with towering skyscrapers. The day will be split into three related themes – The Great Beginning, considering Manhattan and arrival of the Dutch; development of a grid pattern of streets; Central Park; the Statue of Liberty. The Age of the Skyscraper, with icons such as Central Station, The Rockefeller Center, Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building. Finally, a

closer look at modern New York and its art, including the Met, Lincoln Centre and Guggenheim.

Wednesday 3 July



Mad Tracey From Margate: the Work of Tracey Emin

Rosalind Whyte

Tracey Emin shot to fame and notoriety with My Bed in 1999. She has since earned fortune and criticism in equal measure. We look at some aspects at what is a wide-ranging and varied body of work.

Wednesday 10 July

Day trip to Harewood House, Yorkshire

Tuesday 15 October

Seven-day tour of 'real Spain'

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, St. Annes FY8 2AE.

Chair: Hilary Alcock 01995 670563
Vice-Chair: Marie Riley 01253 713003

This issue of In the Picture has been edited by Pam Foster. It is published twice a year in March and October. Contact the Editor via inthepicture@iwcom.co.uk

Cover: Detail from Parrots on a Pole by Lawrence Vincent from last autumn's Fly Away Birdie exhibition in Lytham. Photo by John Parkinson. See page 3

Interim Financial Report for Fylde DFAS

Because of the introduction of coincidental years and thus an 18-month interim 'year', it was decided at last year's annual general meeting to provide members with an interim report.

The committee will consider transferring funds to the Good Causes Account before the end of the current financial period. The reserves slightly exceed the minimum level agreed by the committee and at the 31 December 2012 stand at £12,928.32, most of which is held on deposit at the bank.

Good Causes Account

The period to 31 December 2012 shows a very small surplus of £52.40 compared with a deficit of £1,168.85 in the previous year. The largest expenditure in this period was a donation of £1,250 to the Lytham Hall Appeal. The total cost of the It's a Birdie project exceeded £14,000 but grants received covered the cost of the majority of the expenditure. Currently there is £1,458.47 held on the Good Causes Account.

John Parkinson (Treasurer)

Birdies migrate after a summer of fun

The summer-long It's A Birdie project came to an end last autumn and to mark the occasion Fylde DFAS organised a Fly Away Birdie exhibition at the Fylde Gallery in Booths, Lytham.

Not only did the exhibition pull together the It's A Birdie community arts projects, which took place during the summer, but it also displayed a range of varied, associated work that was inspired by the theme. There were pieces from local schools and other community groups, as well as artworks from professional artists, some with national reputations, who have exhibited at the V&A, the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the Mall Galleries in London. Also on show were works from Rebecca Chesney and Patricia Lee, two of the artists who were commissioned by us to work with different groups in St Annes.

The birdie theme continued until well into late autumn as, once again, we were involved with the Friends of St Annes Library (FoSAL), this time with their Owl and the Pussycat project. During the summer, the Friends took the decision to sponsor a mosaic in the Library garden to celebrate the bicentenary of author and poet Edward Lear, who also created the children's poem. FoSAL, together with Fylde DFAS, commissioned artist Patricia Lee to create a fitting memorial that would appeal to a



Unveiling of the Owl and the Pussycat mosaic in St Annes Library garden. Below: Artists Patricia Lee and Rebecca Chesney chat to Fylde DFAS's Angela Brown at the Fly Away Birdie exhibition opening. Bottom: Mosaic in St Annes Square



wide audience, especially children.

In mid-November, members of FoSAL and Fylde DFAS, together with families and other library users gathered in the Library garden for the unveiling of the mosaic, before quickly returning indoors (it was mid-November remember!) where Patricia Lee ran art workshops in the Library for the children to make Owl and Pussycat bookmarks and masks.

Unlike Birdsworth, the other mosaic in the garden, the Owl & the Pussycat mosaic is mounted on the ground and is very much in the

style of the mosaics to be found in St Annes Square.

All our birdies have now flown away but have left a lasting legacy of community involvement. The project was hugely enjoyable, as well as a massive learning experience for Fylde DFAS. We are quite rightly proud of our achievement – after all, we are the only DFAS group to have been awarded such a large Arts Council grant. Future projects will have a lot to live up to – what will we do next? Watch this space.

Pam Foster



The main Bauhaus building in Dessau

Bauhaus icon back to its former glory

The eastern German city of Dessau contains perhaps the most iconic structure of the Bauhaus, which was arguably the first fully integrated design academy in the world and unquestionably one of Germany's greatest pre-war achievements.

This is the building that was the Bauhaus college from 1925 until 1932, when students and staff were hounded out of town by the local Nazis and resettled for just a year in Berlin, before dispersing to all the corners of the earth.

Visiting Dessau last November with my daughter, we strolled from the railway station through the university campus and approached the former Bauhaus headquarters from the rear. When I suggested we were nearly there she seemed doubtful, as the building facing us looked far too modern. But that's the point, really. The Bauhaus was so far ahead of its time that its creations look right up to date even 80 years after they were first conceived. And the accuracy of our navigation was swiftly confirmed when we saw the legendary Bauhaus lettering cascading dramatically down the side of the main building.

Painstakingly restored after wartime bomb damage and 30 years of neglect, the building is now once more a place of research and study, though visitors are welcome to see the permanent and temporary exhibitions and can eat delicious home-cooked food in the restaurant equipped (of course) with Bauhaus-designed furniture.

A short walk takes you to the equally well-restored Masters' Houses, semi-detached homes on the edge of a pine wood where tenants included their architect, the Bauhaus director Walter Gropius, and other

illustrious names such as Kandinsky, Klee and Mies van der Rohe.

A visit to the outskirts of Dessau reveals yet another Bauhaus treasure, the Törten housing estate of 300 mass-produced, affordable and practical two-storey homes designed under the dictum "people's needs, not luxuries". The estate's centrepiece is a starkly modernist building designed by Gropius and commissioned by the local Konsum (co-operative), which today serves as an information and exhibition centre.

We stayed an hour away by train in Leipzig, a manufacturing centre that suffered a sharp economic downturn and even sharper fall in population after the difficulties of German reunification. The situation is more encouraging today and the city is enjoying a buzzy and exciting



renaissance thanks partly to an influx of students, artists and craftspeople who can find affordable working and living space in former industrial buildings such as the immense Spinnerei complex, which was once the largest spinning mill in continental Europe (though Manchester folk would have known of bigger ones).

We spent a couple of comfortable nights at the Spinnerei in a converted loft apartment while enjoying art and culture of the highest order (Leipzig has a world class symphony orchestra and opera house, for example). But Dessau and the Bauhaus were the real highlights of this trip.
Iain Williamson



Roman Baths in Bath. Photo by David Iliff.
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West Country and best of Spain are on 2013 travel schedule

Encouraged by last year's very successful visit to the North East, a tour of Bristol and Bath is planned for the end of May 2013.

We travel by executive coach and most of the visits include guided tours. On the way to Bristol we see Hidcote, which offers one of the country's greatest gardens, containing rare shrubs and trees, herbaceous borders and unusual plants. We move on to the four-star Marriott City Hotel in Bristol for a four-night stay on a half board basis.

Over the next three days we have tours of the American Museum at Claverton Manor, Bristol city centre, the National Trust's Tyntesfield property, Wells and Bath. In Bath we see the Roman Baths and the Holburne Museum of Art. On our journey home we visit the Shugborough historical estate in Staffordshire, previously home to photographer the late Patrick Lichfield.

Much of Spain remains unknown, despite being one of the most visited countries in the world, so Fylde DFAS has organised a cultural tour to see some of the best it has to offer. We have taken onboard your comments about last year's Italian trip and have built more free time into this tour.

On arriving in Spain a coach takes us to Salamanca, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where we stay for the next two nights on a bed and breakfast basis. Salamanca is thought by many to be one of the country's most beautiful cities. We next visit Segovia, capital of the old Kingdom of Castille, which boasts one of the most finely preserved Roman aqueducts in the world.

We stay the next four nights in the four-star Novotel in Madrid on a half board basis. The hotel is set in its own gardens complete with swimming pool and terrace. A sightseeing tour of Madrid

Plaza Mayor in Salamanca



includes the Prado Museum, which houses many great works. The next day we will take a short drive out of Madrid to Aranjuez, home to the former summer palace and gardens of the Spanish Royal Family. The Palace itself has been sympathetically restored and features beautifully displayed antiques, fabrics and exquisite furniture together with outstanding works of art. Just south of Madrid lies the beautiful city of Toledo, which is well known for its majestic Alcazar Palace perched on the top of the hill, its fantastic cathedral, richly adorned with treasures plundered from the New World, and its wealth of other buildings. El Greco lived here and we can visit his house where some works are hung.

Further information on both tours, together with booking forms, are available from Elaine Wolstencroft at forthcoming lectures or our website www.fyldedfas.org.uk Elaine Wolstencroft

Grand play was farce at its best

The Howard Brenton production of Anne Boleyn, our last Fylde DFAS outing to Blackpool's Grand Theatre, was going to be a hard act to follow but we set out last November with high hopes. One Man Two Guvnors was a smash hit at the National Theatre and had a successful run on Broadway as well as the West End, so the omens were all good.

It transpired in the foyer that none of us had done much research as we struggled to remember who wrote the original play. The programme supplied the answer. It was an adaptation by Richard Bean of A Servant of Two Masters, written in 1743 by Venetian playwright Carlo Goldoni.

The plot was pure farce with more slapstick than a big top full of circus clowns. Now we were all pretty much agreed that we dislike slapstick. The sight of a custard pie

flying through the air fills the average DFAS member with horror. Why then were we collectively crying with laughter? Perhaps because it was witty and fast-paced with perfect comic timing. An ageing decrepit waiter, wobbling about precariously with a tureen of soup, having a door slammed repeatedly in his face and falling flailing to the ground shouldn't have been funny. It wasn't – it was hilarious.

Audience participation supplied a lot of the humour. It was cleverly managed to appear unscripted and spontaneous, but there was more to it than met the eye. Many of us were initially convinced by the reluctant young woman persuaded on to the stage, then a bit ambivalent. Was she for real? Apparently not. We winced at the disruptive heckler in the third row, but the hummus sandwich it appears was a plant – metaphorically speaking.

The sets evoked Brighton really well from the seafront terraces to the pier. The décor of the 1960s living room struck a chord for those of us able to remember that far back. The musical interludes were an entertaining bonus.

The original production starred James Cordon but Rufus Hound seemed made for the part. It's difficult to single anybody out because the cast performed together seamlessly and appeared to be enjoying themselves as much as the audience. The whole thing was completely absurd so it might not be everybody's cup of tea but the consensus on the coach back seemed to be that it was ours. We are lucky to have the Grand on our doorstep to give us access to performances of this calibre, and lucky also to have Christine to organise tickets and transport, making it so easy for us to attend and enjoy it. Marie Riley



Above and below, teapots from Les Forrest's collection

Tea and passion

The restaurant at the Glendower Hotel, St Annes, was the venue for November's Special Interest Lecture entitled Afternoon Tea with Josiah Wedgwood. It was given by Les Forrest, a retired general consultant at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, who lives in St Annes and has a passion for Wedgwood teapots.

Les battled with initial microphone problems but his enthusiasm and knowledge came over loud and clear.

Wedgwood is still a famous name in pottery, even though the company no longer exists. Les took us back to the origins of the firm and how the unique glazes began to distinguish its wares from anything else on the market.

His talk was beautifully illustrated with photographs of teapots, both from his own extensive collection and from museums and galleries around the world. He gave details of the Wedgwood family through the generations and their contributions to revolutionising the quality of the pottery, in particular Jasperware.

Members were then treated to the traditional, refined delights of afternoon tea; sandwiches, scones with jam and cream and a variety of cakes. There was a display of teapots both from Les and members of Fylde DFAS.



Anne Fielding

Why we're seeking more volunteers

Two of our Committee members will regretfully not be standing for re-election for 2013-14: John Parkinson, Treasurer, and Olga Depledge, Membership Secretary. We urgently need volunteers to replace them.

The electronic systems for both roles are set up and tested and there is opportunity to shadow the roles before the AGM next November.

Both roles require membership of the Committee and an ability to

use the computer. The Treasurer needs an understanding of finance management and accounting and is involved, to varying degrees, in all the Society's activities. The Membership Secretary is responsible for membership records, collecting subscriptions and recording attendance at lectures.

If anyone is interested, please contact Hilary Alcock or me for further information.
Marion Nuttall (Secretary)

Vice Chair bows out

Philip Bailey, Vice Chair of Fylde DFAS since the society was first conceived in 2007, has retired. Hilary Alcock, Chair, writes this tribute:

I first met Philip on a Civic Society trip to Liverpool almost a decade ago and was fascinated to hear about his career as an architect in various parts of the UK including Edinburgh. He also spoke about two of his other passions, the Pre-Raphaelites and collecting antique Moorcroft pottery. It was only much later that I learned about his appetite for adventure when he related some fascinating stories about his travels, including riding horses across Mongolia.

When it came to looking for a Vice Chairman for the Fylde DFAS steering group in 2007, he seemed a perfect fit, especially this sense of daring! That was exactly as it turned out to be, although I don't think he realised at the time just what an escapade he was getting into. We were a group of six people dedicated to getting this new society off the ground. This mild mannered, humorous and



Hilary Alcock makes a presentation to Philip Bailey at our December lecture

dependable man gave us all his full support and the benefit of his wisdom and professional expertise on areas such as health and safety, building requirements etc that the rest of us were very hazy about.

At that time, being such a small number of people, we had to double up on responsibilities and Philip took on Church Recording and Heritage Volunteering. The two interesting projects that are now up and running very successfully are down to Philip's dedication. He has agreed to see the project on the White Church through to its publication, for which we are very grateful.

We wish him all the best for the future and will always regard him as the perfect gentleman.

Overlooking the fountains and Pavilion, Alnwick

North East visit goes from ancient treasures to the latest app



A group of Fylde DFAS members set off for the North East late last summer for a two-night break to Durham and Northumbria.

The first stop en route was at the spectacular Raby Castle, where lunch was provided in the former stables. Two guides escorted us around this beautifully sited castle. Every room in the Castle, from the magnificent Barons' Hall, where 700 knights gathered to plot the Rising of the North, to the Medieval Kitchen, which was used until 1954, provided an insight to life throughout the ages.

Behind the powerful exterior of towers and fortifications, Raby houses a fantastic art collection and splendid interiors. Treasures include an important collection of Meissen porcelain, tapestries, furnishings and paintings by leading artists such as Munnings, De Hooch, Teniers, Van Dyck and Reynolds.

We continued our journey up to Durham to the Radisson Hotel, with the evening free for people to explore the city and visit the Cathedral. On one of our two evenings there, an enterprising and IT-literate group had a wonderful meal in an Italian Bistro close to the hotel, thanks to a TripAdvisor app.

Next morning we visited

Alnwick Castle, home to the Percy family. This castle houses an amazing art collection, including paintings by Canaletto and Titian. A visit to the State Rooms enabled us to see the most beautiful furniture and objets d'art collected by the Percy family over many generations. Two objects which must be mentioned are the Cucci cabinets. These were made in the late 17th century for Louis XIV for his palace at Versailles and are the only surviving royal cabinets. Recently conserved, they were only returned to the castle in 2011.

The castle is also famous for its spectacular gardens, including a cascading fountain, which moves in stages down the hillside. Each level has its own fountain jets which are timed to come on sequentially. There is also a poison garden which houses many common plants which are indeed deadly. Our guide revelled in frightening the young children on the tour! There is a beautiful rose garden, a maze and also a well kept walled vegetable garden. Many of the group had lunch in the sun on the terrace of the beautiful Pavilion, with its panoramic views of the garden and the grand cascading fountains.

There were plenty of young

apprentice witches and wizards taking part in the many Harry Potter-type activities.

Disappointingly, 'Broomstick Lessons' weren't on our itinerary!

In the afternoon we visited Wallington House, home to many generations of the Blackett and Trevelyan families. This house has fine interiors and splendid gardens and made a very pleasant stop on the way back to Durham.

Our final visit on our way home was to the Tullie House Museum in the city of Carlisle. The museum has an extensive and important art collection housed in the original Tullie House. Within the newer building there was an excellent Roman exhibition in the basement area, together with an exhibition which looked at everyday life in the city during the Georgian period. This newer building also houses an excellent café where we had lunch. Outside, pretty gardens include Roman and Jacobean themed features and planting, many of which were used in cookery and for medicines.

The trip was excellent and we were able to visit a wide variety of castles, houses, museums and exhibitions. There was something for everyone, even witches!

Susan Cornah

Letter from our Chair

As I write this it is snowing heavily, but by the time you read it, the snowdrops will be out and there will be signs of spring just around the corner as we embark upon the second half of our season. Autumn 2012 was a hectic period as we said 'Bye Bye Birdie' and began planning for the future.

At our Committee meetings we have been revisiting our succession planning, hoping to welcome some new faces on to the Committee. We are looking for a Membership Secretary and a Treasurer from November 2013. I do hope we can depend on you for some support, because to maintain the range of provision we offer, we really do need some able bodies and creative minds on the team.

We are also reviewing the size of our membership. At lecture meetings we are almost full to capacity as the Society gains in popularity, and we are already discussing the opening of a waiting list. Linked to this, we are somewhat intrigued by the initiative in London, 'NADFAS at Night', and feel that this might be something that we could trial at Fylde, albeit on a smaller scale. We would like to encourage some younger participation – from those who are currently in full-time employment and unable to attend our afternoon lectures – to get involved and be inspired, like us, by arts education, conservation and heritage, so that when they retire they will automatically become DFAS members.

With this in mind, we are planning to hold some evening events to which you are all welcome, but which will also be



Grand Theatre, Blackpool – subject of an evening event on 25 April

open to the public. If you have family members or neighbours who you think might be interested, please do invite them to come and join us. If they have had a busy day at work or at home with the family, a Fylde DFAS at Night talk is the perfect way to unwind with a glass of wine, in relaxed surroundings and in good company.

The first of these will take place at the Glendower Hotel, St Annes, on Thursday 25 April and will have a local focus – 'Curtain Up:

the Story of Blackpool's Jewel in the Crown: Matcham's Grand Theatre'. The speaker will be the dynamic and engaging Honorary Archivist, Linda Tolson MBE. In addition, there will be a fascinating opportunity to view the archive, presented by the theatre's Vice President, Geoff Tolson. It will be an evening of indulgence, nostalgia and sparkle.

The next few months will also showcase an interesting programme of diverse topics and destinations which we hope you will enjoy. We have invested in some new sound equipment and we hope this will make a noticeable difference to the reception at the monthly lectures. It is proving to be an ongoing challenge.

NADFAS North West will be taking a stand in a new and exciting event at Stonyhurst College, a Spring Country Fair, on the weekend of the 6 and 7 April. There will be a range of quality arts and crafts (eg jewellery, textiles, furniture), stalls, workshops and classes, as well as artisan bread makers, preserves etc. Please do come and bring your family.

Please contact one of the Committee if you have any concerns or suggestions for further improvements or different formats. We welcome your feedback, be it positive or negative, so do feel free to share your thoughts with us.

In the meantime, enjoy reading the Newsletter and note down in your diaries all the other exciting events you are going to participate in during the weeks and months ahead. Hilary Alcock

Heritage project was special theme for Christmas lunch

Once again the venue for our annual Christmas lunch was the elegant and popular Grand Hotel, St Annes. Before sitting down to a delightful seasonal meal, over 80 members and their friends socialised over a glass of wine and chatted to members involved with the Stonyhurst kneelers heritage project, who came along to not only display samples of their embroidery but also to talk about the project in general. Members were also able to try their luck in a raffle in aid of our Young Arts project.