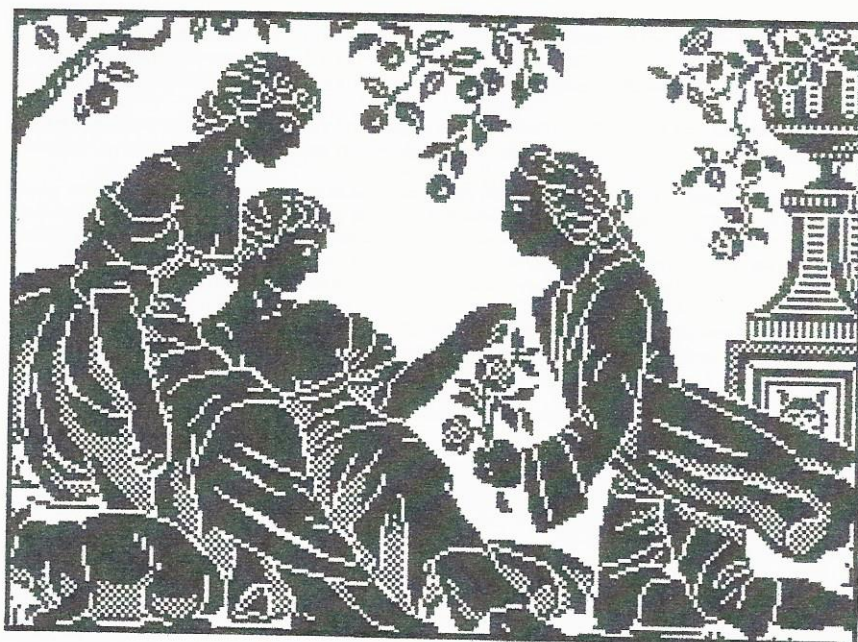


FYLDE DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY.



ANNUAL REPORT. 2011-2012

March 2012

Chair's Report.

When we started Fylde DFAS almost three years ago, it was great fun as well as a lot of hard work, although everything was on a very small scale. It has been my ambition to consolidate but also grow the Society and expand its influence through networking locally, regionally and nationally. Our numbers have fluctuated slightly but have held up and exceeded predictions. Our finances remained sound as a result and we continued to market ourselves whenever and wherever possible. Strength in numbers has meant an increased presence providing opportunities to influence, to have a mandate to get things done, to be heard, to have an impact and to effectively carry out our commitment to further arts education, culture and heritage in the Fylde. The following report will demonstrate just what has been achieved in 2011/12 as we looked for new ways of interpreting the founding principles of NADFAS, as well as raising our profile and promoting Fylde DFAS as an inclusive and exciting organisation that complements the work of other organisations in the area. For instance we put on the Stanley Warburton exhibition, "An Art Refined" in conjunction with the Fylde Borough Council Working Group, the Friends of the Lytham Art Collection and Booths supermarket.

Advances in technology and communication have opened up new opportunities for the Society and we are adapting fast to the digital age. We need you to come with us on this journey and to take advantage of the local computer courses available and lessons from your children and grandchildren to develop your computer literacy skills. We have noted that an increased number of Members are now on e-mail and we would hope that this will once again grow next year. Once you access our newly designed, bright and fresh website, now easier than ever to use, you will find out not just about the Society's activities but about arts and cultural events in the NW and beyond, as well as photographs of yourselves at events. Also Twitter provides you with a chance to have your say, and be an integral part of our planning and organisation.

The Volunteers Bank expanded this year and a Strawberry Sparkle event was held in July to celebrate and thank contributors for their involvement, enthusiasm and commitment in helping things run smoothly throughout the year.

Finally we have all been able to enjoy the pattern of regular lectures enhanced by Special Interest Days, visits, events and for the first time, a European tour. The subjects have diversified and there has been evidence of passion, enthusiasm and commitment from our visiting speakers, words which also describe that of my Committee. They really are the unsung heroes behind the smooth running of the Society and without them there would be no Fylde DFAS. I would like to use this opportunity to publicly thank them for all their hard work, friendship and creativity. In particular I would like to single out Philip Bailey and Barbara Weston. Philip has manfully fulfilled the role of Vice Chairman from the start but steps down this year, as he will add Heritage Volunteering to his Church Recording portfolio. No, he is not being allowed to ride off into the sunset! Barbara has also been incredibly active and involved; she will leave the Committee to travel more extensively, but will become Society Archivist.

Next year will be my last as Chair of Fylde DFAS and I am looking forward to it being even busier and more successful, which with your help it surely will be. In the meantime please read this report and reflect with pride on all that has been accomplished by you and your Society.

Hilary Alcock.

Programme Secretary's Report: Lectures and Special Interest Days

The Lecture Programme has been planned over a three-year span of time, enabling us to provide a balanced and wide variety of subjects, including both Fine Art lectures and those related to the Decorative Arts, and where appropriate, linked to topical occasions and events. All our lectures are now offered as digital presentations which we feel is essential for the high quality of image required for the size of our venue.

The programme for the year opened with a thought-provoking lecture entitled 'Who Says? Can We Trust the Experts on Good and Bad in Art', providing a detailed look at a number of past works of art. By contrast, we were immediately brought up to date with an excellent overview of 'Architecture at the London Olympics 2012'. Michael Howard was welcomed back warmly for our Christmas lecture entitled 'The Journey of the Magi', a familiar subject incorporating the work of different artists over the centuries. Some of the highly complex work on care and conservation of paintings was shown in the lecture 'Angels with Dirty Faces'; and was followed by an unusual lecture 'English Furniture Design Today' relating to various recent commissions seen in grand locations, such as palaces, and cathedrals. Linda Smith was also warmly welcomed back with a popular choice of lecture entitled 'Power, Propaganda and Men in Tights'- a closer look at English Art under the Tudors. Other lectures later in the year include 'Tate Ancient: the Earliest Art' and also 'Glittering Prizes: the Mosaics of Ravenna', timed appropriately for our cultural tour of Ravenna, Bologna and Padua in May. A change in the programme enables us to mark the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a lecture entitled 'Windsor Restored'; and a further topical lecture closes the season with an historical view of 'The Original Olympic Games'.

Two Special Interest Days have been arranged this year - last October '5,000 Years of Glass' was held with Andy McConnell, a popular and familiar face on the BBC TV series 'Antiques Roadshow'. This was very well attended and proved to be a most stimulating day. A further Special Interest Day is planned later for April entitled 'From Can-Can to Soup Can: the Story of Modern Art from 1850 to 2000' and is to be held at Lytham Hall.

Please note that a Suggestion Box is always available at the hall entrance and you are warmly invited to offer suggestions of subjects or speakers whom you think may be of interest at our meetings. We always try to incorporate some of your suggestions into our future programmes.

Kate Cartmell

Treasurer's Report.

The accounts presented show a surplus of £560.83 for the year ending 31 December 2011. The General Account showed a surplus of £2729.68 whilst the Good Causes Account showed a deficit of £2168.85 prior to a transfer of £1000.00 between the accounts. The General Account surplus is due to the membership number being higher than expected and the continued support by our members for the events and Special Interest Days which show a combined surplus of £1338.96.

It was always anticipated, as stated in my Report last year, that there would be a deficit on the Good Causes Account as funds had been raised in previous years to fund expenditure on the highly successful Young Arts Project, 'Mr. Lowry in Lytham St. Annes.' The expenditure on this project during the last financial year was £2659.18.

The balance sheet shows the reserves of the Society at £11391.15 on the General Account---which is equivalent to just over a year's expenditure and the Good Causes Account has reserves of £1406.07.

The Committee is proposing to change the year end to 31 July with the current period running 19 months to 31 July 2013. An unaudited interim set of accounts will be produced and circulated for the year to 31 December 2012 to keep you informed of the finances of the Society.

The main reasons for the proposal is to ensure that the financial year of the Society is the same as the membership/subscription year and the lecture programme year. Currently they differ ---the subscription year runs from 1 July to 30 June and the lecture programme year from September to July.

Despite the accounts showing a healthy financial position the Committee feels it prudent to propose a modest increase in the annual subscription to £48.00 from 1 July 2012. This will cover the 13 month period to 31 July 2013 where the budget for the period shows a small deficit.

Mr. Ron Marshall, the Independent Financial Examiner, has signed the accounts as a true and correct record.

John Parkinson

Fylde Decorative and Fine Arts Society.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31 December 2011.

Year to 31/12/10		Year to 31/12/2011	Budget to 31/12/2011
	Income		
12,164.00	Subscriptions	10,881.50	9,760.00
693.00	Visitors Fees	504.00	700.00
1,303.13	Study Days and Events	-	-
	Saltaire	356.26	-
	Grundy Art Gallery	75.51	-
	Gardens of Goodly Delight	567.76	-
	Special Interest Day 13/10/11	260.93	-
	Xmas Lunch	78.50	-
	12.13 Bank Interest	1,338.96	500.00
	Donations	26.35	-
99.00	Gift Aid Administration refund	121.00	100.00
186.62	Refreshments	155.38	170.00
400.00	Grants	-	-
	Raffle	-	-
-	Committee Coffee	-	-
<u>14,857.88</u>		<u>13,027.19</u>	<u>11,230.00</u>
	Expenditure		
3,762.36	Lecture Fees and expenses	3,668.33	4,000.00
2,520.35	NADFAS charges	2,676.60	2,676.00
97.60	Insurance	95.80	100.00
850.00	Hire of meeting rooms	1,082.18	1,052.00
17.57	Refreshments at meetings	-	-
-	Website	651.79	-
1,120.57	Printing, stationery and postage	1,447.99	1,400.00
368.34	Committee members' expenses	233.62	250.00
191.27	Miscellaneous expenditure	72.00	500.00
-	Expenses reclaimable from NADFAS	-	-
-	Application fee to NADFAS	-	-
918.15	Equipment	369.20	-
<u>9,846.21</u>		<u>10,297.51</u>	<u>9,978.00</u>
5,011.67	Surplus/(deficit)	2,729.68	1,252.00
	Before any awards and Discretionary expenditure		
	Less:		
	Transfer to Good Causes Account	1,000.00	-
128.12	Discretionary Expenditure	-	-
<u>4,883.55</u>		<u>1,729.68</u>	<u>1,252.00</u>
4,777.92	General Fund at beginning of year	9,661.47	9,661.47
<u>9,661.47</u>	General Fund	<u>11,391.15</u>	<u>10,913.47</u>
	Good Causes Account		
	Income		
689.01	Net Raffles	952.79	500.00
1,300.00	Grants	-	-
762.34	Events	-	-
	Interest	0.12	-
	Transfer from General Account	1,000.00	-
<u>2,751.35</u>		<u>1,952.91</u>	<u>500.00</u>
	Expenditure		
	Young Arts	212.58	-
	Church Records Group	-	600.00
309.09	Lowry Project	2,659.18	3,000.00
	Lytham Hall	250.00	-
<u>309.09</u>		<u>3,121.76</u>	<u>3,600.00</u>
2,442.26	Surplus/deficit on Good Causes Account	- 1,168.85	- 3,100.00
132.66	Good Causes Account at beginning of Year	2,574.92	2,574.92
<u>2,574.92</u>	Good Causes at 31st December	<u>1,406.07</u>	<u>528.08</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2011

Current Assets

17,457.89	Cash at Bank and in Hand		
	General Account	3,370.15	
	Deposit Account	10,010.48	
	Good Causes Account	1,353.07	
-	Debtors and prepaid expenses	3,192.52	
<u>17,457.89</u>			<u>17,926.22</u>

less Current Liabilities

5,221.50	Deferred income from subscriptions	5,129.00	
-	Other creditors and accrued expenses	-	
<u>5,221.50</u>			<u>5,129.00</u>

<u>12,236.39</u>	Net Assets	<u>12,797.22</u>
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Represented by:

9,661.47	General Account	11,391.15
2,574.92	Good Causes Account	1,406.07
<u>12,236.39</u>		<u>12,797.22</u>

Visits and Tours Reports.

Tour to Krakow.

In May 2011, Fylde DFAS embarked on its first overseas trip to Krakow and over 40 members joined the four-day tour to sample the delights of Poland's beautiful second city. Members had previously been provided with an excellent introductory lecture on the history of the city, courtesy of Douglas Skeggs.

In order to make the journey as easy as possible, several coach pick up points were organised in St Annes, Fairhaven, Lytham and Kirkham, to take people to Liverpool Airport. A further coach carried us from Krakow airport directly to our four star hotel, which was conveniently situated just a few minutes walk from the old town, making it easy for people to get to the major sites on foot.

The first full day included an extensive walking tour of the city, which took in the University and Collegium where Copernicus worked and developed some of his theories on astronomy. We also explored Warwel Hill, a huge Jurassic limestone rock, and home to the Cathedral and Castle. The Cathedral houses a large variety of art, from Gothic to Renaissance to Baroque to Classicist to Modern.

The next day included a visit to the world famous Wieliczka Salt Mine, a subterranean museum, housing dozens of statues, carvings and altars carved out of rock salt. We walked down long passages, visiting numerous chambers, including the spectacular cathedral, where even the chandeliers are made from rock.

Day three saw us in a sombre mood as the majority of the group joined the organised trip to the Auschwitz-Birkenau museums. The sheer scale of the sites, especially Birkanau, was overwhelming. Overall, the tour was harrowing and disturbing but few regretted the experience.

This was an escorted tour, with an excellent Tour Manager who was prepared to be flexible and add in extra trips depending on the interests of members. On the first evening he organised an additional optional excursion to a Chopin concert at the Bonerowski Palace, which proved to be a beautiful setting for a musical event. On our third day, a further unscheduled visit was arranged to the Jewish district of Kazimierz. It included a visit to the Remuh Synagogue, which dates from the 16th Century and is one of only seven remaining synagogues in Krakow. Our guide also pointed out various locations that were used in the filming of 'Schindler's List'.

Feedback from this tour has been very positive and it quickly became apparent that members would like more of the same. Hence, we have arranged a six day tour to Italy – the Art & Palaces of Bologna, Ravenna, Padova & Parma – for 2012. For those members who can't make Italy, we have also organised a three-day tour to Northumbria in October 2012. It looks like organised tours are set to play an increasingly important part in our future activities.

Pam Foster.

Visits.

On Thursday, 23rd February 2012 a full coach of members and friends left Lytham St Annes for a day in Liverpool. On arrival our first stop was St George's Hall, described as the finest neo-classical Grade 1 listed building in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage site. After refreshments we commenced on a guided tour of this building exploring the Cells and Court Rooms, the Great Hall with the Great Organ and Minton Tile floor and the beautiful Concert Room where visitors in days gone by could enjoy music and hear readings from such literary mentors as Charles Dickens.

After leaving the Hall we travelled to the Albert Dock to explore the largest collection of Grade 1 listed buildings in the U.K. Members visited the Tate Liverpool which opened in 1988 to display work from the Tate Collection comprising British Art from 1500 to the present day. Crossing the footbridge some members visited the new Museum of Liverpool recently opened by the Queen in 2011. This very futuristic building is an architectural landmark of natural Jurastone and looks out to the River Mersey and the iconic buildings on the waterfront. On return to the dock area members went to the Maritime Museum which also incorporates the Merseyside Slavery Museum. Meeting up together once again at 3.30p.m. members enjoyed a welcome cup of tea or coffee with cakes before departing home.

On Wednesday 28th March 2012 for the first time reservations were made by Fylde DFAS for a matinee performance of 'Anne Boleyn' at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

We consider it is important to support this magnificent local facility. Fifty seats were reserved in the middle stalls and our coach collected members and friends along Clifton Drive in Lytham St Annes taking them to the centre of Blackpool for the matinee performance of this English Touring Theatre's vivid and vibrant production of 'Anne Boleyn' from the Shakespeare Globe in London. The play is a compelling, witty, funny celebration of a great English heroine, Anne Boleyn.

Looking back in time over 70 years it tells how the witty and flirtatious Anne, in love with Henry V111, plotted and conspired with the exiled William Tyndale to make England Protestant.

Another visit to the Grand Theatre to see the National Theatre's comedy production of 'One Man, Two Guvnors' is planned for November and other visits are currently being arranged.

Thank you for all your support this year.

Christine Cockburn

Volunteering Arms Reports.

Heritage.

In previous years we have not established any Heritage projects but 2012 has seen some interesting developments. Firstly we have embarked upon a regional collaborative project with other Societies, namely Salmesbury, Ribble and Craven, South Lakeland and Birmingham. This project has an embroidery focus, producing kneelers for the Chapel at Stoncyhurst College and is led by Helen McCook from the Royal School of Needlework based at Hampton Court. A training day was held at the School last February and was much enjoyed by all the participants, including a group from Fylde. It is ongoing and will take some time to complete, but it is hoped that it will provide a worthwhile and enjoyable pastime and an opportunity to socialise with other NADFAS Members in the North West.

We have also investigated the opportunity for a project focussed on photographing, researching and cataloguing the Fylde Art Collection. We recognise it is a huge task but finance is being sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund and with the help of the Conservation Studios and Public Records Offices in Preston, we are confident that we can get this up and running in the months ahead.

Philip Bailey & Hilary Alcock

Church Recording.

The Church Recording Group consisting of twelve members has made good progress this year in its work in the White Church, Fairhaven. The project began in earnest about a year ago and smaller groups have been working on various topics including books, plaster work, woodwork, metalwork, stained glass and textiles.

Supplementing the Training Day in November 2010, a NW Adviser visited the group earlier this year and gave helpful advice gained from his experiences of many similar projects in the area. Also proving invaluable is the book published by the National Recording Group in 1993 entitled, 'Inside churches: a guide to church furnishings.'

We would like to thank the White Church for their cooperation and for opening every Thursday afternoon for us to carry out our work and providing a warm environment for us to meet to discuss our progress.

When we have finished, the record we publish will be presented to the minister of the church and copies will be held by the local library, the County Records Office, the Library of Church Buildings, the National Monuments Record in England and the Victoria & Albert Museum Art Library. However we have a lot of work to do before then!

Philip Bailey

Young Arts.

The 'Mr. Lowry in Lytham St. Annes' competition for Year 6 pupils in the Fylde which was launched in October 2010 reached a thrilling and satisfying climax at the end of May 2011 with the submission of well over 200 entries. The standard exceeded our expectations presenting a very difficult task for the judges in deciding the winners. However, in the end, they agreed that the entry from Weeton Primary School should be awarded the First Prize in the class entries with the prize for the best individual submission going to Ella-Grace Gregoire from St. Paul's CE Primary School, Warton.

All the prizes were awarded at a special event held at The Fylde Gallery, Lytham on the evening of Monday, 5 September 2011 when over 100 invited guests attended. The Gallery was then open to the public for the rest of September when about 800 people looked in to admire the 50 or so entries that had been selected for display-----a most thoroughly deserved outcome to a highly rewarding initiative taken by the Society.

Having completed this successful project with local primary schools, which received excellent coverage in The NADFAS Review, we turned our attention once again to the Sixth Form Art Competition sponsored by the Royal British Artists Society and NADFAS. This year most of the local secondary schools with A-level classes participated with the excellent result of two students being chosen to exhibit at the Mall Galleries in London in March 2012. It was a great achievement as we had had a winner last year from a different school and it underlined the impressive young talent that exists in Fylde

schools. Both girls, one from Lytham Technology and Performing Arts College Sixth Form and the other from Blackpool Sixth Form College, are now studying art full time at Higher Education institutions.

This was followed up by "Drawn from Youth 2", an extensive exhibition at the Fylde Gallery showcasing a selection of work shortlisted for the London panel of judges and including drawings, paintings, ceramics, sculpture, fabric design and, in addition, some photography. It was much enjoyed by the local community and others who had travelled some distance to see it.

Hilary Alcock & Gerry Corless

Events Secretary's Report.

By the end of this year the Society will have enjoyed two major events.

Eighty four members joined us for our second successive Christmas Lunch at the Grand Hotel, St. Annes. The occasion was highly successful and members enjoyed a glass of wine while socialising with friends. The reception was followed by a traditional meal served in the elegant St. Annes Suite. A raffle in aid of Fylde DFAS Young Arts Projects raised a record sum exceeding £200 and we would like to thank everyone who bought tickets and those who generously donated prizes.

Many of those present suggested that we re-book the same venue for next Christmas and so we have done just that. Please note the date—Tuesday 18 December 2012.

We are delighted that Roger Mitchell, who studied History at Oxford and Fine Art at Leeds, has generously donated his time and expertise to deliver his lecture, 'The Georgian Country House at Home and Abroad' in support of the Lytham Hall Appeal Fund. Lytham Hall is one of the finest Georgian Houses in Lancashire and it can hold its own among Georgian Houses in the rest of the country and the world. The event [to be held shortly after the time of writing this Report] will start with a reception in the Reception Room before moving to the West Wing to hear the lecture. This will be followed by a hot supper.

We sympathised with Roger in his difficulty in deciding what to leave out of his lecture but look forward to hearing his talk which will include Holkham, Houghton, Kedleston, Ickworth and Belsay.

Barbara Weston.

Membership Secretary's Report.

I have the pleasure to present my report on Membership of the Fylde Decorative and Fine Arts Society for the period from May 2011 to the AGM in May 2012.

As might be expected, we again lost some members at the end of the second year – people moved away, changed jobs, took on other commitments on Wednesdays, felt unable to continue because of ill health or decided that they did not want to continue as members. However, 199 members rejoined at the end of the year. We have gained 29 new members in the current year, and (at the time of writing this report in February 2012) membership stands at 228, 3 more than at the end of last year.

It is important that we spread the word about our interesting, lively, dynamic and friendly society. Maintaining membership levels – increasing the numbers in membership if we can – is, of course, essential if we are to continue to be able to offer the high quality of lectures that has been such a feature of the first three years.

I have been grateful for the help and support of members of the Committee for my work in dealing with the administration of membership records. I hope that members have found the joining and renewal process comparatively easy to deal with: if there are any improvements that members can propose, I shall, of course, be happy to take them on board.

Olga Depledge

Multi Media Secretary's Report

The web site has been completely re-designed by a professional designer, the main purpose being to provide an easy-to-use and up-to-date resource for our members and the wider community. The old web site was a hard act to follow – after all it won a NADFAS Media Award in 2010 – however, the new site not only has a fresh feel about it but also offers more content and information. Online traffic has increased and feedback from users has been very positive.

In keeping with our aim to embrace social media we are now using Twitter and Flickr. Both services can be easily accessed directly from the web site. Twitter enables us to provide very current information and comment, while Flickr allows us to store all our photographs. Thanks to our contributing photographers – Julie England, John Delamore, Bill Cartmell and Ron Davies, we now now have an extensive photographic record of our trips and social events, as well as lectures. Thanks too to Mary Woodland for her portrait photographs of committee members which are on the web site and to other members who, from time to time, provide interesting images for us.

Most lecturers now provide PowerPoint-type presentations and we would like to thank Bill Cartmell who assists with setting up the appropriate technology to ensure that each lecture runs smoothly.

Our newsletter goes from strength to strength and is available in both print and electronic formats. A big thank you to all contributors for making each issue an interesting and informative read and also to Iain Williamson for his help in designing and putting it all together.

Christmas 2011 saw the first official Fylde DFAS Christmas card, which we sent to our partners and sponsors. Thanks to Sue Tidman for designing the card, which has been much admired. We hope to make the card available for members to purchase for Christmas 2012.

Pam Foster



fyldefas.org.uk