Fylde Decorative and Fine Arts Society
Member of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies

5th Annual Report
2014

Barbra Cropper

5 years of Fylde DFAS
2009 - 2014
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Preface  Reflections of the first five years of Fylde Decorative & Fine Arts Society.

On reflection of those initial early days - searching for a suitable venue for over 200 people, no funds, establishing a Steering Committee, invaluable guidance from NADFAS NW Area Advisors, new friendships based on a love and passion for the Arts.

Our first year was a new, exciting time meeting lecturers expert and famous in their chosen speciality. Memories include the Inaugural Lecture; cancelling our first lecture meeting in January due to snow; a first Special Interest Day, 'Understanding Sculpture in the Twentieth Century', at Lytham Hall and a first ambitious Young Arts Project with primary schools based on L.S.Lowry.

In the following year we had a most stimulating Special Interest Day on '5,000 Years of Glass' with Andy McConnell, a familiar face from the BBC Antiques Road Show; the first 'Drawn from Youth' Exhibition at Fylde Gallery with artworks from local secondary schools and colleges - even a prestigious award to one of our students from the Royal Society of British Artists and our exciting, very first cultural tour abroad to Krakow.

As five years sped by, thoughts come to mind of committee changes yet still continuing to build on our successes, inspired as ever by our enthusiastic, encouraging and knowledgeable Founder Chair, Hilary Alcock. Our lecture programme continued with a high level of interest; with return visits from such excellent lecturers as Linda Smith, Peter Medhurst and Michael Howard, often for a Special Interest Day, as with Roger Mitchell's absorbing lecture about Bess of Hardwick Hall with a later visit to the Hall in Derbyshire. Enjoyable day visits were arranged with a memorable gondola visit to Brantwood overlooking Coniston Lake, following an excellent lecture on the life and work of John Ruskin. Tempingly, short cultural holidays were arranged in the UK, as in the North East with Durham and Alnwick Castle and, another year, a visit to the West Country, with such delights as Hidcote Manor Gardens, breathtaking Wells Cathedral and the stunningly extended Holbourne Museum in Bath, a sensitive blend of classical and contemporary architecture. Members enjoyed yet more tours abroad, including Italy with exquisite mosaics at Ravenna, Bologna and Parma and, the following year, to Salamanca and Madrid to see fabulous Spanish National Art Galleries and Museums.

Occasional new events have been introduced, such as a fascinating Wedgwood Teapot Party; a number of memorable theatre trips, including two excellent National Theatre productions and also a number of "NADFAS at Night" events, part-social, having a themed lecture and supper, yet valued also in terms of Outreach, offering an introduction to NADFAS for those as yet unable to experience our monthly lectures.

As members will be well aware, NADFAS offers unique opportunities to become involved in varied voluntary work, especially in relation to the three voluntary arms of NADFAS, namely Church Recording, Heritage Volunteers and Young Arts. We are justifiably proud of the long-serving work which has been accomplished so far in all these aspects - and immensely grateful for all the voluntary work undertaken by our members in helping to make Fylde DFAS such a successful Society.

Outstanding has been the success of our two major Community Arts Projects, 'It's a Birdie', linked to the 2012 British Open Golf Championships, supported by funding from Fylde Council and the Arts Council and, more recently, the 'Tagging the Treasures' Project, researching information for a printed and on-line catalogue for the Lytham St Annes Art Collection, supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Such memories reflect the firm foundation upon which Fylde DFAS has developed and five years on, with a wealth of experience behind us, we have become a vibrant community-based society of friendly people, keen to learn from the experiences on offer and generous in volunteering help in all aspects of our work. We are delighted to have such a thriving membership, and enjoy consistently high attendance at our lectures, having a warm response to the many different activities and events we offer. Only three members remain on the Committee from the original Steering Committee signifying continual movement within our framework. The Committee appreciates that not everyone has time to pursue our requests for help yet we trust that more members will seriously consider serving on the Committee or joining our increasingly important bank of volunteers. We aim to provide an on-going varied programme of lectures, tours, visits and events, and members' suggestions for these are always welcome.

Lastly, three special achievements of the past five years - our award-winning informative website now under the expert care of Pam Foster; the 2014 NADFAS AGM at Torquay with Hilary Alcock being announced as a NADFAS Trustee; followed by Marie Riley, our Chair, receiving on behalf of Fylde DFAS and our successful "It's a Birdie Project", a prestigious national Community Award from the Marsh Christian Trust.

And so to the next five years.............

Kate Cartmell
Chair's Report.

Reflecting back, the past year has been memorable for an outstanding lecture programme; special interest days; visits to Hardwick Hall, Liverpool and Port Sunlight, an overnight theatre trip to Stratford on Avon; a wonderful European tour and many other events. It is also notable for what we have achieved externally. Our 'Drawn from Youth' Young Arts Exhibition in March was a great success, enabling us to build strong relationships with local sixth forms. Our Heritage Lottery Project involved us in partnership-working with the Friends of the LSA Art Collection, Fylde Council, Lancashire Museums Service, the Library Service, the Civic Society and many other bodies. We participated in community events at Lowther Pavilion and the Heritage Open Day at the Town Hall. None of these activities could have taken place without the support of our volunteers.

We are pleased to work with local societies and maintain continuing relationships with groups we have worked in partnership with, for example Home-Start Fylde, the White Church (the focus of our Church Recording) and the RSPB Discovery Centre at Fairhaven Lake.

Our membership continues to grow, as does our volunteers' bank under the auspices of committee member Rita Calvert. We never take our volunteers for granted; the Society couldn't survive without them. They fulfil practical tasks at lectures and events such as meeting and greeting; providing refreshments; selling raffle tickets; setting up the projector and sound system; giving the vote of thanks; taking photographs and writing publicity items. We have young arts volunteers; church recorders and volunteers working on the Stonyhurst tapestry. In addition to all this we have numerous researchers contributing to our Tagging the Treasures Heritage Lottery Project to catalogue the Lytham St Annes Art Collection. Several researchers have joined us from outside the society so this year we have had to introduce an additional coordinator specifically for 'Taggers.'

Becoming Chair of such a thriving society was always going to be a challenge, but what makes Fylde DFAS tick is not one individual, but a hardworking committee and our vibrant pool of volunteers. Because of that, we are able to celebrate yet another successful season. However we can't afford to be complacent. Committee members are on fixed terms of office as we don't want to become moribund. We need new people to join and replace us so please think about coming forward. It's very rewarding and a great way to get to know like-minded people. We have changed the date of the AGM this year, partly to allow enough time for the accounts to be prepared, but also to introduce a system of mentoring on the committee. This means that new committee members will work alongside their counterparts and learn about their roles before taking up their position in the new lecture year, so it shouldn't be too daunting to take on a committee role.

It is because we have such a hardworking committee and such a willing group of volunteers that, although I have to report with regret I will not be seeking re-election for a further term of office, I am confident that the Society will continue to thrive. Due to family circumstances I will be moving away from Lancashire in the near future. I have valued my time as Chair and have been proud to have been part of a group that has contributed so much to arts, culture and general wellbeing in the place where we live. Our society has become recognised as part of the fabric of the local community. We have not simply delivered a great service to our membership, providing them with high quality arts and social activities, but we have also been a force for good here on the Fylde and I hope will continue to be for many more years.

I would like to thank our outgoing President, Jo Darbyshire, who has given us wise and excellent support since we were first inaugurated. Although she has completed her term of office we were reluctant to lose her. She has fortunately agreed to be nominated as our next Chair and I am sure her vast experience will be an asset to the Society. Our Vice-President, Hugh Ellwood will now be taking over as President. As a well-travelled NADFAS Lecturer, Hugh started his own tradition at Fylde several years ago by generously offering us an evening lecture prior to our European holiday. This has now become established as a 'DFAS at Night' annual event. As well as an entertaining lecture for all, it provides a cultural briefing to enhance the European tour, raises money for charitable causes and enables us to enjoy a friendly social event together. As far as we know, no other society does this but we think it is such a good idea we intend to promote it more widely within NADFAS.

We now have five successful years of Fylde DFAS behind us. This is quite a milestone but I am confident, given the strength of our membership, that we can look forward to many more.

Marie Riley
Programme Secretary's Report.

I have pleasure in presenting my first report to the Society as Programme Secretary. My objective in planning the year was to provide a programme that covered a variety of arts topics (worldwide) presented by high quality speakers. I hope that the Members will agree that highlights for the year included:

- Linda Smith on a "Representation of the Working Classes in Art" as our opening lecture; this was Linda’s third visit to the Society and, based on the reception given to her polished and wide-ranging approach to the subject, I have included her again in my planning for the 2015-16 year;

- A very popular, fascinating and entertaining lecture was provided by Nigel Bates on the "Royal Opera and Ballet Company"; this lecture seemed a very suitable topic for December and was well received;

- One of our largest audiences was for Nicholas Merchant’s lecture on “Faberge at the Court of Tsar Nicholas”; the quality of the workmanship and the opulence of Faberge’s work was brought to life in a well-received presentation;

- The topic of “Islamic Art” and the range of work covered in the overview presented by Christopher Bailey prompted a number of members to suggest that this is an area about which we can - and want - to learn more; the images in this lecture were particularly beautiful;

- Chloe Sayer spoke about “Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera”, giving us a chance to look at work inspired by Central American culture and at the impact of politics and political events on the lives of two important artists of the Twentieth Century.

I hope that members welcomed the range of topics that we covered and that the overall impact of the programme was both entertaining and stimulating. I hope also that we have found a good balance between the different aspects of fine and decorative arts, including both the challenging and the easily accessible.

I am very grateful for the comments and opinions that members gave to me after each lecture - this helps in future planning.

I would like to thank my friends and colleagues on the Committee for their help and all members of the Society for their support throughout the year. I am very grateful for the advice and assistance that I received from the outgoing Programme Secretary, Kate Cartmell, whose work in designing the early years of the Society’s programme gave us such a sound basis on which to build the Society’s future.

Olga Depledge
Membership Secretary’s Report.

I am pleased to report on a very successful period in which membership numbers and participation have been very buoyant.

From the start of the Society’s 2013-2014 membership year, numbers have increased from 202 in October 2013 to 243 in July 2014. In March 2014 we introduced a waiting list again as the Hall can only safely accommodate a finite number.

For the period October 2013 to 31 July 2014 attendance at lectures has averaged 62% and has remained fairly constant throughout the year except for the July Lecture when many Members were on holiday. Local publicity and our much acclaimed web-site seems to be attracting visitors as the average number for lectures is nine and on one occasion reached sixteen.

This year we changed slightly the way of membership renewals and I would like to thank members for their response. It made it possible to invite 21 new members before the first lecture in October. Renewal forms were given out at the June and July Lectures and members were urged to renew their membership by the 1st August. Members that weren’t renewing also contacted me.

At the time of writing (October 2014), we have 21 new members. Several people have expressed an interest in joining and often come as a visitor to a Lecture to assess if the Society is to their taste.

It is important to spread the word about our interesting, lively and friendly Society as we believe that the most successful recruitment method is by personal recommendation. We encourage members to tell friends and colleagues about the Society as maintaining a strong membership base is essential for us to be able to offer the high quality of lectures that is an important feature of our programme.

This is my first year as Membership Secretary and I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the administration of membership records and the joining and renewal process. I hope you have found our processes easy to deal with; if you have any suggestions for improvement, the Committee will be happy to consider them.

Pauline Hamilton.
General Account

The General Account showed a surplus of £2,609.79 for the year to 31st July 2014, after transferring £1,000 to the Good Causes Account. Income was higher than expected which reflected a higher number of members and all the events being fully supported. All other expenditure was in line with our budget.

No capital expenditure was incurred in the year to 31st July 2014 but the committee have authorised expenditure on upgrading equipment in the current year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year to 31/07/2014</th>
<th>19 months to 31/07/2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>12,200.00</td>
<td>16,799.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors Fees</td>
<td>712.00</td>
<td>840.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special interest days, Holidays and trips</td>
<td>1,809.18</td>
<td>1,770.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>346.87</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,068.05</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Less: Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Lecture Fees and Expenses</td>
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<td>NADFAS Charges</td>
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<td>Hire of Meeting Rooms</td>
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<td>Printing, Stationary and Postage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
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<td>Other Expenditure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer to Good Causes Account</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Surplus</strong></td>
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<td>General Fund at beginning of Year</td>
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<td>11,391.15</td>
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<td><strong>General Fund as at 31st July 2014</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,358.16</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,748.37</strong></td>
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</table>

The committee have a reserve policy and currently the reserves of £14,358.16 all held in cash exceed the minimum reserves by £2,899.90.
the Period Ended 31 July 2014

**Good Causes Account**

The Good Causes Account shows the income from events, raffles and the transfer from the general account of £1,000

During the period we spent £10,768.11 on the “Tagging the Treasures” project of which £12,000 was received in the form of grants, in the previous period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year to 31/07/2014</th>
<th>19 months to 31/07/2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Raffles</td>
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<td>Events</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer from General Account</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<td>Young Arts</td>
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<td>Heritage Projects</td>
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<td>45.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>It’s A birdie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tagging the Treasures</td>
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<td>Church Recorders</td>
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<td>Friends of The Grand Theatre</td>
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<td>350.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lytham Hall Appeal</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,564.72</td>
<td>13,154.93</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Good Causes Account at beginning of year</strong></td>
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<td>1,406.07</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Good Causes</strong></td>
<td>5,996.28</td>
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</table>

All surplus funds are held at the Bank with most of the funds on deposit. The accounts have be certified as a true and correct record by Jeremy Stirrup our Independent Examiner. Full accounts are available.

Please contact the Treasurer Jean Holland (jeanh023@hotmail.com) if you require a copy.

09/10/2014
Tour Coordinator’s Report.

Tour of Madrid, Salamanca & Toledo

Salamanca, a World Heritage Site was the first stop on the Fylde DFAS trip to Spain in October 2013. On the first morning we had a guided walking tour of the two Cathedrals and the many University buildings and also the Plaza Mayor, one of the finest squares in Spain. On our second evening in the hotel a welcome drink with tapas was held in the garden.

Travelling to Madrid on day three we visited Segovia, an ancient walled city, built by the Moors, Jews and Christians – and again a World Heritage Site. The best known feature is the Roman aqueduct which straddles the south of the town. There were many other historical buildings to see including the Cathedral of San Martin and the Alcazar.

Next morning we had a sight seeing bus and walking tour of this amazing city, Madrid. The main attractions for art lovers were the three major galleries – the Prado, the Museo Thyssen-Bornemiza and the Reina Sofia. The Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza houses one of the best collections of art in the world and in 1993 the Spanish State bought the collection of $350 million.

Our next visit was the former Royal Palace and gardens at Aranjuez. In the evening we travelled by coach to the small town of Chinchon, with an ancient Plaza Mayor still used for bull fighting. We dined at a lovely restaurant converted from a former olive mill where we were served food and wine specialities of the region.

On our last day we visited Toledo, a wonderful walled town on a steeply sloping hillside. The highlight was the Museo del Greco in the Jewish Quarter. Our final morning we were free to explore Madrid before our journey home.

Visit to Stratford upon Avon, Royal Shakespeare Company & Compton Verney, Warwickshire’s Award-Winning Art Gallery

Members of Fylde DFAS travelled to Stratford upon Avon in May for two days staying at the 4* Macdonald Alveston Manor. After checking into the hotel we had free time to explore Stratford and have a meal before our visit to the theatre to see Gregory Doran’s production of “Henry 1V Part 1”. He was joined by Jasper Britton as Henry 1V; Alex Hassell as his son Prince Hal; and Anthony Sher as Sir John Falstaff.

The following morning after breakfast we travelled a few miles to Compton Verney. We started the tour with an introductory talk, and discovered how Compton Verney turned from stately home to a derelict building and then turned into an award-winning art gallery.

The Moore Rodin international exhibition brought together two of the greatest sculptors of the modern age: Auguste Rodin and Henry Moore. The sculpture was shown within the striking 'Capability' Brown Landscape and inside the gallery spaces.

After lunch at Compton Verney and a visit to the gallery shop we started our journey for home after a very successful tour.

Visit planned for September 2015 to Vienna.

Elaine Wolstencroft
Visits & Special Interest Days Coordinator’s Report.

On Thursday, 28th November 2013, fifty members and friends went to see Dame Agatha Christie's long running play 'The Mousetrap' at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool. After celebrating its 60th Anniversary Year this famous murder mystery play was on tour and with excellent seats reserved in the Front Stalls of the Grand Theatre we all enjoyed the atmosphere of suspense and brilliantly intricate plot of this very successful play.

Over 60 members and friends enjoyed a day at the Dalmeny Hotel, St Annes on Tuesday, 18th February 2014 for the Special Interest Study Day 'Bess and Her Descendants'. Elizabeth Talbot, Countess of Shrewsbury, known as Bess of Hardwick, was a very notable figure of 16th century society, friend of Queen Elizabeth 1st, who by a series of four well-made marriages, rose to the highest levels of English Elizabethan nobility. The NADFAS lecturer, Roger Mitchell gave us two excellent informative lectures on the achievements of Bess of Hardwick, her extraordinary family and two great houses. The Dalmeny Hotel provided an excellent 3-course lunch in the Carvery and refreshments in the St Annes Suite for everyone. A very successful Study Day.

Wednesday, 30th April 2014 saw a full coach depart from Lytham St. Annes to Liverpool. On arrival at the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral and following refreshments in the Sir Giles Gilbert Scott Suite we commenced on a private guided tour of this magnificent building. We then enjoyed a light lunch before departing through the Mersey Tunnel to Port Sunlight. A Port Sunlight Tour Guide boarded our coach and we enjoyed a one hour tour of this historic village with her excellent entertaining informative commentary. Following refreshments in the Lady Lever Art Gallery café we were free to explore the Art Gallery, founded by Lord Leverhulme.

The Gallery is famous for its magnificent collection of paintings and outstanding porcelain and furniture. An added attraction was visiting the Turner Exhibition. An interesting day of architecture and art was enjoyed by everyone.

'Ancient Egyptian Art, Architecture and Artefacts' was the subject of our second Special Interest Study Day. On Wednesday, 18th June 2014, 72 members and friends attended St Annes Old Links Golf Club for 3 wonderful lectures by NADFAS lecturer, Lucia Gahlín. The programme for the day included the lectures 'Pyramids and Temples', 'Art for the Afterlife' followed by lunch of 'Pharaoh's Chicken' – very appropriately named! After refreshments the last lecture 'Brilliant Things'– Artistry in Glass and Faience commenced.

Lucia Gahlín's lectures were outstanding and her enthusiastic personality and extensive knowledge of her subject made this a Study Day to remember.

Our last visit of the year to Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire on Thursday, 10th July 2014 was a very interesting day. Following our Study Day 'Bess of Hardwick' in February it was wonderful to approach this wonderful Elizabethan house in perfect sunshine and see for ourselves the height and symmetry of its design by Robert Smythson with its huge expanse of windows and the silhouetted initials ES for Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury on top of the six towers. Hardwick Hall, uniquely, retains the textures of its original decoration – tapestries, coloured plaster friezes, inlaid furniture, portraits and the finest collection of 16th and early 17th century needlework. After exploring the house, gardens and Hardwick Old Hall we all met in the Great Barn Restaurant for refreshments and cake before the long journey home.

Thank you for your support this year and I look forward to your continued support for my programme in the following year.

Christine Cockburn
Media & Communications Coordinator’s Report.

A new logo and a re-designed website have been important developments this year. Although we were very fond of our original windmill logo it was felt that a more contemporary image would be an advantage. The new logo, which comprises three waves, represents the rivers Ribble, Wyre and Fylde coastline – the very borders of our Society. At the time of writing, the website is undergoing a complete re-design, which will give it a more modern look, will offer easier navigation for users and will provide more functionality for the web administrator. Our thanks go to Simon Foster for his services.

Social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, continue to play an increasing role in helping us reach a wider audience. Nearly 2,500 photographs, covering our events of the last five years, are available for all to see on Flickr. Our thanks to regular photographer Julie England and others such as Mary Woodland and John Parkinson. We continue to use Dropbox for sharing and archiving documents and we have also started to use MailChimp as a means of creating newsy emails which can be sent out to all members with an email address. We are mindful of data protection issues and have implemented a robust safety policy, which we update on a regular basis.

Our Newsletter continues to be warmly received. We have made some cost savings by no longer posting it to members, relying instead on them picking it up when they attend lectures. These savings will ensure that we can continue to publish it in a print format for the foreseeable future. We are indebted to all our contributors for their submissions, which together make each issue an informative and interesting read. It is with great sadness that I have to report on the death of Iain Williamson early in November. From the beginning Iain has been an active member of FDFAS and has helped with the layout and design of our Newsletter which has been widely commended both by our own members and also externally. We send our condolences to his family.

All lectures depend on both ours and the lecturer’s technologies working seamlessly together. Our thanks go to Bill Cartmell and Tony Depledge who help with the setting up to ensure that the lectures run smoothly. Our sophisticated new audio system provides quality sound throughout the hall and also means that we are no longer dependent on the hall’s system; thanks go to Allan Foster and Ian Milner who ably set up the system for each of our lectures.

Pam Foster
Volunteering Projects.

1. Young Arts

In March 2014 we once again held a successful exhibition of secondary school & college artwork, “Drawn from Youth 4” to showcase local talent from the area which did not get selected for the national competition. The exhibition was held at the Fylde Art Gallery and the work was outstanding and a credit to local art teachers and their talented students. We were delighted that the work of one of our young artists, Katie Locke, was exhibited at The Mall Galleries, London. Fylde DFAS sponsored three additional prizes for our own local competition which was judged by a very experienced panel including a local artist and former lecturer in fine art at the University of Central Lancashire, the Head of Fine Art at Blackpool and the Fylde College and a senior graphic designer with Microsoft.

In preparation for our next exhibition in Spring 2015 and, prior to the Summer break, we visited schools and colleges to see end -of -year exhibitions in order to select work to be considered by the Royal Society of British Artists [RSBA]. We have extended our schools network to include two additional school sixth forms bringing the total to seven and have been very impressed with the standard and creativity of their work. We have submitted many more entries for the RSBA competition as a result.

This year our Young Arts Committee has been very lucky to receive additional training in exhibiting artworks and creative labelling by the Lancashire Conservation Officer. We have also been scoping out a project with the Conservation Officer involving a local primary school and the Heritage Project “Tagging the Treasures”. We are hoping to work with the school to research one of the paintings in The Lytham St Annes Art Collection.

We were delighted to hear that one of our former RSBA winners, Katie Hampson, has achieved a first class Honours Degree. Members may remember seeing Katie’s work, often of pets and farm animals and we send our well-deserved congratulations and wish her every success in her future career.

Angela Brown.

2. Heritage & Conservation

The two-year initiative, Tagging the Treasures, to catalogue the Lytham St. Annes Art Collection was launched in August 2013 with a public meeting at Fylde Town Hall to introduce the project and recruit volunteers. By the end of the first year we had involved about 65 volunteers researching art works and taking on other important roles. We have held two exhibitions and a Heritage Open Day to enable people to view many of these outstanding paintings, ivories and other works of art. We have also held two public lectures and numerous workshops and training courses including visits to the Lancashire Conservation Studio, Preston and the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool. Our second year will concentrate on pulling all the research together and producing our final catalogue, working with schools and curating our final project exhibition. The project has been supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Contained within last year’s Annual Report was reference to another Heritage Project and the Tapestry Group has been working, alongside other societies, on creating kneelers for Stonyhurst College Chapel. The design is the work of the Royal School of Needlework and is both complex and challenging with only a limited number of simple stitches. After three years the required tapestry work has been completed and
the group is ready to start the final stage of applying gold thread on top of the delicate stitchery. This work is time-consuming and will take at least another year before it is finished. The kneelers are beautiful colours showing intricacies and variety in each of the differing designs.

3. **Church Recording**

The Church Recorders’ Group has almost completed the recording of the White Church, Fairhaven with only a few minor details still to be included. The main records are now being compiled ready to be typed on the required NADFAS templates. Unfortunately the number of recorders has reduced now that most of the information has been obtained and ill health has slowed progress in completing this final stage. The Committee is hopeful that the situation will shortly be resolved.

**Volunteering** in any of these activities is a good way to meet other members, make new friendships and to learn new skills. If you would like to know more about and/or participate in any of these volunteering opportunities do ask any of the Committee Members. Training is given by NADFAS experienced leaders and workshops, often fascinating and unusual, are available each year within the NW Area.

Marie Riley, Kate Cartmell