

Fylde Decorative & Fine Arts Society

Member of the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies

ARTS, EDUCATION, HERITAGE & CONSERVATION



Fylde DFAS tour to VIENNA by Barbra Cropper

THE ART OF PROGRESS 6th Annual Report 2015



Contents

Look at what we've achieved and what people say

Chair's Report	2
Our Members	3
Our Programme and Volunteering Projects	5
Our Finances	10
Our Organisation	12



Chair's Report

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2014/15.

In these papers you can read of the programmes, visits, special interest days and the management of the Society over the last year and so I am not going to look at those in detail. I am sure you will join me in a very big 'thank you' to those members who have given their time, talents and expertise to nurture our Society into the strong position of today. Well done to all.

This year our Annual Report is framed around the Society's **progress** and the **impact** we have made to the art and design in the locality and beyond. Our impact report is a claim to the success of Fylde DFAS measured by evidence and supported by numbers.

Looking at the previous five Annual Reports it is clear that there has been a lot of change. We are no longer a 'new' Society but are a well-established and recognised part of the 'arts scene' especially in the Borough of the Fylde.

We have changed our logo, no longer a facsimile of the Lytham Mill but a modern logo designed around the three boroughs of the Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool intersected by our two rivers –the Wyre and the Ribble. Such a change came about with almost no comment from the membership but is a modern representation of our reach and influence.

So we are no longer the 'babes' in the arts locally, but a mature organisation offering learning and enjoyment to our members plus a range of art-based projects which have helped and supported young arts students, school-pupils, children in hospital, other arts programmes and the traditional NADFAS offerings of Church Recording and Heritage Volunteering.

Some of these projects will complete by the end of this year. Tagging the Treasures will reach a conclusion in December 2015, our embroiderers have finished their work for the Chapel at Stonyhurst College and our Church Recording Group will complete its first assignment. Thanks

to all our volunteers we have reached a wonderful conclusion to challenging tasks. There are more projects in the pipeline so watch out for them and join in wherever you can.

Our Committee has also changed in accordance with the democracy of the Constitution. I did have the opportunity to see the committee members work from an informed distance as your President and now I appreciate them from close up! Throughout the year we have been blessed with excellent committee members and volunteers. They do a terrific job but each year the calendar beckons new recruits. Don't be shy, come and join us and we will fit you in to make the best use of your talents and preferences. A special thanks to those members leaving the Committee at the AGM.

When change becomes an art it leads us to a five year plan and the Committee has spent a lot of time and effort in producing a Plan for consultation with the membership. Keeping that which works and being brave enough to strike out for new ventures is, I believe, the way to keep the Society lively and active . As I write the Plan is with you all for comments and suggestions and we will bring the results to the AGM.

I hope that the reports of progress and impact collect together for you the major events and achievements of 2024/15. It has been a most successful year and I congratulate everyone who helped to make it so.

To finish a quote from my favourite artist:

'Look at light and admire its beauty, Close your eyes and observe. What you saw is no longer there And what you will see later is not yet.'

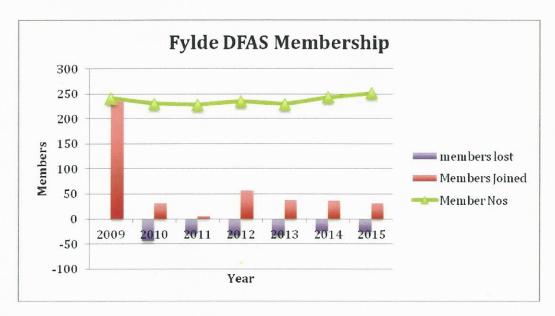
Leonardo da Vinci.

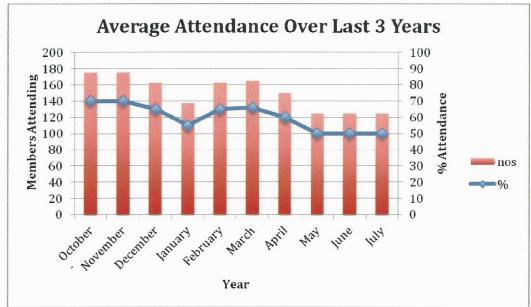
Jo Darbyshire.



Our Members

As Membership Secretary I am pleased to report that once again our membership numbers have remained buoyant over the period of 2014/2015. This year I am including some graphs, which I hope you will find interesting.





We started the 2014/2015 Lecture Programme with 237 members, which had risen to 251 members by July, over the year gaining 32 members and losing 26. At the beginning of the year we had a waiting list and you might be interested to know how we managed it. The Hall is generally set up for 180 seats. At the beginning of each season based on historical data the maximum of members that attend is 75% and from February onwards this reduces from around 67%, to remain fairly constant at 50% in the summer months. Therefore we are able to offer a part- year membership in February to those on the waiting list and still not exceed the 180 seats.



It is important to continue 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.

Once again I would like to thank the membership for responding so promptly with their renewals and also for their suggestions for the Society as a whole. It is also a great pleasure to be involved with Fylde DFAS that continues to be such a vibrant Society.

LIFELONG LEARNING.

Approaching 1,500 members & 57 visitors attended lectures this year.

Engaging with our members is achieved by continuing to keep abreast with new technological advancements while, at the same time, retaining more traditional methods to ensure inclusivity at all times.

Our website is the public face of Fylde DFAS and a new site was launched earlier this year. It offers more information, is easier to use and is aesthetically in keeping with an arts organisation. Analytical statistics show that usage generally increases month on month and that our audience is international. Pages covering events and exhibitions are accessed the most and with this in mind we have now increased our 'Exhibitions Section' to include details of what's on at 30 galleries located in the North West. We are also gradually adding the lecture notes from previous lectures for users to download and print. Many members have asked for spare copies of notes from past lectures and by adding them to the website we will shortly be able to offer a complete archive of all of our lecture leaflets.

We have retained our Newsletter in a print format as we believe this is what our members want. It is now designed professionally and printed in Germany as this offers the best deal financially. Our thanks go to Simon Foster for his assistance. We are, as ever, grateful to our members for their contributions which together help create a lively and informative read.

ENGAGING WITH THE WORLD AT LARGE.

Our utilisation of free social media enables us to engage with the world at large.

Using Twitter, we can interact with galleries, lecturers and others; Facebook lets us spread news of our Society to a wide audience and Flikr provides a resource for the nearly 3,000 photographs we have taken at events and during trips since the Society began. Our thanks go to photographers Jacqueline Arundel, Ged Curley and Julie England.

E-mail is increasingly important for communicating with members and well over half have provided e-mail addresses. We use the free Mail Chimp service to send out news items and notices and our statistics show a much higher than average 'open' rate. However we realise that not all members use e-mail and so, in order to remain as inclusive as possible, we now offer news and notices on a Power Point presentation at the beginning of each lecture.

All our speakers rely on us to provide the technology necessary for the smooth running of lectures and our thanks go to Tony Depledge for his help in ensuring both ours and the lecturers' technologies work smoothly together. Our thanks go also to Allan Foster and Ian Milner for getting to grips with and mastering our sophisticated sound system. We estimate that they each spend just short of 40 hours per year in volunteering to do this work.

Membership Secretary and Media & Communications Coordinator.



Our Programme

As in previous years, our aim in planning the year has been to provide a programme of **lectures**, **visits**, **tours** and **events** that covers a variety of arts topics from different periods and countries, presented and led by high quality, professional people. We have been happy to include topics which were suggested by members and continue to welcome suggestions and ideas for the forthcoming year.

In addition we provide opportunities for members to learn about and participate in various Volunteering Projects in Heritage, Church Recording and Young Arts.

Lectures

I hope that members feel that the programme matched their own interests and objectives for the Society. Members will know that I collect feedback (both formally and informally) after lectures and that a report is then submitted to NADFAS in London, scoring the overall reaction of the lecture. This process helps me to gauge the response from members and gives NADFAS information on which they can provide help and support to other Societies as they plan their programme. This process is of great assistance in our own work.

During the last season we awarded an "excellent" score to nine lecturers and one "outstanding" which is an indication of the value of the feedback system in maintaining the quality of lectures.

Some of the <u>highlights</u> of the past season included:

- The opening lecture by Alice Foster on Velásquez and Goya and their position in the history of art was brought to life in a well-received presentation;
- Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes was a hugely popular subject. Rosamund Bartlett, an expert on Russian art and history, provided a fascinating picture of Diaghilev and the artists with whom he worked. The lecture included video clips of ballets that Diaghilev created;

- Anthea Streeter made a welcome return to Fylde DFAS, this time with a lecture on the multi-talented and versatile designer Thomas Heatherwick, who is a major force in contemporary urban design;
- We marked the centenary of the start of the First World War with a moving and informative lecture by Dr David Boyd on the War Artists, including Paul Nash and CR Nevinson:
- A much anticipated and well received lecture came from Dr Anne Anderson, speaking on René Lalique, Master of Art Nouveau Jewellery and Art Deco Glass
- The last lecture of the season was the one rated as "outstanding" by many members, being a welcome return for Bertie Pearce. Speaking on The Punch and Judy Show, he delivered an informative, engaging and thoroughly entertaining introduction to an art form with long and socially important comic roots, tracing its origins and influences through the centuries. I hope that Members share my view that this lecture ended the season on a high note.

I am grateful for the level of support and assistance that I have received and the comments and opinions that members gave after each lecture played a major role in programme planning.

Programme Secretary

Visits & Special Interest Days

Since my last report five events have successfully taken place.

 In November 2014 thirty-five of us went to the Grand Theatre, Blackpool to see Regeneration adapted from Pat Barker's Great War Trilogy .Marking the centenary of the First World War, this excellent antiwar play, so well performed by the excellent actors, was extremely well received and raised questions regarding the moral issues of war.



- Seventy-four of us went to Dalmeny Hotel, St. Annes in February 2015 to hear NADFAS lecturer, Caroline Knight, give two excellent informative lectures on The Grand Tour:Travel and Collecting in the 18th century. This interesting study day and excellent buffet lunch were greatly enjoyed by everyone.
- In April 2015 forty three of us visited Knutsford and then Adlington Hall, near Macclesfield, Cheshire. We all enjoyed a guided tour of the Tudor and part Georgian Hall followed by a comprehensive tour of the extensive gardens which are rarely open to the public.
- The next Special Interest Day was in June 2015 at Fylde Rugby Club attended by fifty six people. NADFAS lecturer, Stephen Duffy, an ex-curator of *The* Wallace Collection [a national museum in London to which one of the finest collections of artifacts ever assembled by five generations of one family was bequeathed] explored the contents of the collection to a rapt audience. All were inspired to visit the museum.
- The last event in July 2015 was to The Hepworth, Wakefield and Temple Newsam, Leeds .Forty three of us enjoyed a guided tour of this major art gallery which celebrates modern British sculpture and art, especially the achievements of Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore. Then we travelled to Temple Newsam, an Elizabethan house set in magnificent parkland. Now owned by Leeds Corporation, the collections of paintings, furniture, silver, ceramics & textiles and the conservation of the house and parkland are secure for everyone to enjoy.

I have enjoyed organising these events and would like to thank everyone for their support.

Visits & SIDs Coordinator

ENRICHING LIFE: LIFELONG LEARNING:

Since 2010 16 visits and 12 Special Interest Days arranged.

Tours

Two residential tours were organised this year:

The first was to Budapest in September 2014 when 38 members stayed at the centrally placed 4* K&K Hotel within walking distance of the Opera House, bars, restaurants and designer shops. The welcome drinks reception followed by a dinner cruise along a floodlit River Danube was a brilliant start to our stay. Visits included the Synagogue in downtown Pest, which has a seating capacity of 2,964 and is the largest in Europe. Then we visited the Jewish Museum and Holocaust Graveyard nearby. The moving memorial garden contained a beautiful stainless steel sculpted weeping willow tree, the leaves of which were engraved with the names of holocaust victims. We also visited St. Stephen's Basilica, enjoyed a guided tour of Parliament and enjoyed the Margit Kovaks Ceramics Museum and strolling round the many souvenir shops at Szentendre. Optional evening excursions included a visit to the Hungarian State Opera to see Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci and lively Hungarian Folk Dancing. All afternoons were free to allow the group to explore and sample the delicious coffee and cakes.

Our second tour was to Glasgow in June 2015 when 37 of us stayed for two nights at the 4* Westerwood Hotel at Cumbernauld. We firstly visited the Burrell Collection of more than 8000 objects, mostly from the late medieval period and early Renaissance Europe, donated by Sir William Burrell in 1944. We also saw English oak furniture and paintings by Degas and Cezanne. This treat was followed by visits to St. Mungo's Cathedral and the People's Palace, the latter built to hold concerts and exhibitions with a wonderful conservatory similar to that at Kew Gardens.

We then went on a guided tour of the Hunterian Art Gallery safeguarding the famous Mackintosh collection and then on to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, the most visited one in Europe and home to one of its greatest civic art collections. This was impressive, the highlight being Salvadore Dali's *Christ of St. John of the Cross* which is very powerful and moving. An optional evening visit to the theatre to see *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, based on a comedy film and directed by a multi award-winning director and choreographer, Jerry Lane, ended a memorable day.



On the way home we visited Dumfries House designed 250 years ago by renowned 18th century architect brothers, John, Robert & James Adam. It is an imposing Palladian mansion nested within 2000 acres of scenic countryside in Ayrshire. Saved by Prince Charles in 2007, it is a beautiful house full of Chippendale and Scottish cabinet makers' furniture.

Tours Coordinator

SHARING EXPERIENCES.

Since 2010 128 on UK and 202 on European Tours.

"What a tour. The whole visit has been superb. So many exciting places and all the activities". [DFAS participant]

Events

Two other events were organised this year and were very well supported.

In September 2014 our President ,Hugh Ellwood, gave a very informative lecture to over eighty members and friends on the art and architecture of Budapest, followed by a Hungarian meal at Old Links Golf Club, St. Annes. Members not going on the tour left the evening regretting that they were not going to see the beautiful city in real life.

In December just short of ninety members again enjoyed Christmas Lunch at The Grand Hotel in St. Annes during which we were entertained by Morgan Marshall, a student at Chetham's School of Music, Manchester, who played classical music on his violin. Our thanks go to Alicia Grant, volunteer, who helped in the organisation.

Heritage Volunteering Projects

We are now nearing the end of the Heritage Lottery funded two-year initiative, **Tagging the Treasures Project [TTT]** to catalogue the Lytham St. Annes Art Collection. To date, we have given 17 talks to over 2,000 people and presented 3 exhibitions achieving over 4,500 visitors, who would not otherwise have had the opportunity to see our town's fine Collection.

REACHING COMMUNITIES.

120 volunteers including 80 researchers.6,700 local people now aware of Collection.Average of 1,620 hits per month on web site.

Our final exhibition this year, The Art of Giving, gave us a unique opportunity, for the first time, to design, plan and manage an exhibition as trained volunteers with Lancashire Museum Services on hand to advise. This exhibition framed the story of the Collection---how, when and why it was started, the journey towards the present and on further into the future. On that journey the viewer learnt about the life and times of interesting donors and philanthropists, how to conserve and protect the Collection and was also encouraged to become involved. The Exhibition sought to give the artworks a degree of historical context by highlighting what else was happening in Lytham St. Annes when they were donated. Nearly 2,000 visitors from various demographic areas as far apart as Scotland [3%] and London [2 %] saw the Exhibition, many not previously aware of the Collection.

As a direct result of the Project we have currently reached 6,700 local people who are now aware of the Collection and its importance to local heritage and future scholarship. In addition, each month there are an average of 1,620 hits on our web site. Even allowing for some crossover of data this is an impressive reach.

"I have been astounded at the success of the Tagging the Treasures Project and how awareness has increased exponentially. I believe a new army of people has emerged who value the Collection our heritage and want to make it available." [Margaret Race. Chair. LSA Art Collection]

The NW Area of NADFAS has shown support and asked for a short presentation to inspire project ideas. Government cutbacks in the cultural sector have made professional bodies responsible for regional art, museums, libraries and archives keen to involve volunteers to fill the



gaps left before we start to lose our heritage. This there is plenty of scope for further projects of this kind.

This is borne out by the fact that we were directly approached by the National Inventory Research Project which is exploring different approaches to bring fresh expertise to bear on museum art collections. In July 2015 we gave a presentation to regional professionals at Manchester Art Gallery who saw our "grass roots project" as an excellent working model for effectively engaging volunteer researchers and exhibition curators.

A future talk is planned as the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals have asked us to talk to the library professionals at Lancashire Archives about our first-hand experiences of publishing local studies/history research on-line and how we utilised social media throughout the Project.

It has been an honour and a delight to be involved in a project that has caught the imagination of so many local people and received professional accolade as an innovative project. My heartfelt thanks goes to all the volunteers who have participated in the Project without whom it would not have been possible. Also a warm thank you for all the support we have received, especially the Fylde Borough Council, Lancashire County Coucil Museum Services, members of Fylde DFAS and the Friends of Lytham St. Annes Art Collection. Heritage Coordinator. Tagging the Treasures

"Our Society is a keen supporter of both LSA Art Collection and the Fylde Gallery. Both Gallery and Collection add considerably to the cultural life of the town and the Tagging the Treasures Project has brought many more people into direct involvement with them." [Marion Coupe. Chair. LSA Civic Society]

Our other Heritage Project, in which a **Tapestry Group** working with other DFAS Societies, created kneelers for Stonyhurst College Chapel, is nearing completion after three years. Only a small section of the border is unfinished. Many of

you will have seen the work at our lecture meeting in July and admired the intricately complex design and the vibrant colours.

Church Recording

The Guidelines issued by NADFAS for Church Recording are detailed and specific. They go to the heart of the matter which is to record for posterity the content of local churches. Groups find objects of great beauty, age and value but the requirement is also to record the names of clergy, church members, memorials and events which are the history of the church. Everything from obvious stained glass windows to the smallest record or piece of equipment has to be identified, catalogued and photographed. This means that the Church Recording Groups are in for a long piece of work when they start a 'Church Story'.

The Fylde DFAS Group started about five years ago and is finalising the Report before NADFAS Church Recording goes digital in January 2016. The group has worked diligently to complete this project and, in spite of illness, disability and, sadly, the passing away of two prominent members, will meet its closing date. Researching and cataloguing the contents of the Fairhaven United Reformed Church [known to many residents and visitors as the 'White Church'] has been a labour of love. The famous Byzantine style church with its white tile exterior and unusual interior design was an obvious choice with which to start. The completion of the work will be the printing of several bound copies to be presented to the church, the British Library and NADFAS. The books will then become historical documents.

Fylde DFAS is indebted to everyone who has participated in the project. There are many contributors, but I would like to say thank you especially to Hilary Cresswell who is leading the project to a close.

Chair

Young Arts

Our fifth annual **Drawn from Youth Exhibition** was held at the Fylde Gallery, Lytham in March 2015 showing A-level artwork from seven local



schools and colleges. NADFAS works collaboratively with the Royal Society of British Artists [RBA] in providing exhibition space at the Mall Galleries, London for 20 students and we were delighted that two of these coveted places were awarded to students from the Fylde. Both students exhibited portrait paintings: 'Dad' by Heather Stephenson from Blackpool VIth Form College and 'Brown Haired Girl' by Beth Kidd from Cardinal Newman College, Preston. The winning students are entitled to be called Fellow of the RBA for the duration of the exhibition. Fylde DFAS warmly congratulates both students on their success and also the other 37 students from the Fylde whose work was submitted to London for the competition. Each student received a NADFAS/RBA Certificate and a valued addition to their pending curriculum vitae, especially for those who aspire to a future career in the world of art.

INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS——CAREER ASPIRATIONS

In the past 5 years Fylde DFAS has won 6 of these prestigious awards, at first being the only Society gaining success in the North of England. We hear how important this has been in forwarding their career aspirations.

Presented by Fylde DFAS the Drawn from Youth Exhibition is a development from this NADFAS /RBA initiative and displayed all 39 items submitted to London supplemented with more work of a very high standard. Artwork is accepted in a wide range of media, including printing and etching, ceramics, textiles, photography and digital composition. Our Society is proud to offer students this opportunity to publically exhibit their work, sharing it with local dignitaries, friends and artists from within the local arts world and, most importantly, teachers and parents. Mr.Nick Kowalski, Head of BA Studies in Fine Arts at the Blackpool and Fylde College, presented certificates and prizes to the award winners and gave an inspiring speech to our young talented exhibitors.

Organising the competition and exhibition is a lengthy process with work for the following year commencing shortly after the end of an exhibition. I would like to thank all the many people, particularly Sally Banister, Muriel Wardman and Sue Tidman, all volunteers of Fylde DFAS, who gave their time and expertise to make the project so successful.

Vice Chair.

INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Fylde DFAS donated £2000 to Young Arts Projects this year.

Our other Young Arts Project this year was 'Play is medicine too' in which trolleys and art materials were purchased and delivered to Brian House Children's Hospice Blackpool and to Children's Outpatients Departments of Blackpool Victoria Hospital in time for Christmas 2014. Our thanks go to Marjorie Armstrong [volunteer] and Angela Brown for this initiative.

Summary Financial Report for the Period ended 31 July 2015.

General Account

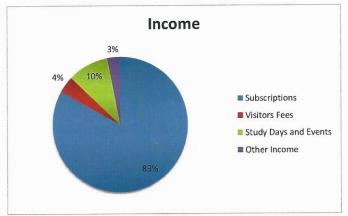
Membership is again up on the previous year and a good income was generated from support at the Special Interest Days

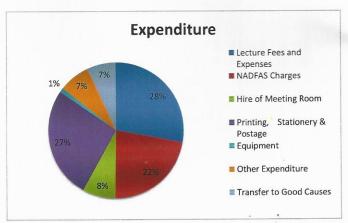
£1,000 was donated from the General Account to the Good Causes Account to benefit local charities.

The General Account showed a small surplus of £ 420.68 over the year to 31st July 2015, after transferring £1,000 to the Good Causes Account. Income was higher than expected which reflected a higher number of members and good support for all the events.

	Year	Year
	to	to
	31/07/2015	31/07/2014
Subscriptions	£ 12,521	£ 12,200
Visitors Fees	608	712
Study Days and Events	1,484	1,809
Other Income	458	347
Total Income	15,071	15,068
Less: Expenditure		
Lecture Fees and Expenses	4,098	4,171
NADFAS Charges	3,261	2,913
Hire of Meeting Room	1,152	1,312
Printing, Stationery & Postage	3,890	2,283
Equipment	160	
Other Expenditure	1,089	779
Transfer to Good Causes	1,000	1,000
Total Expenditure	14,650	12,458
Surplus	421	2,610
General fund at beginning of the year	14,358	11,748
General fund as at 31st July 2015	14,779	14,358
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The Committee has a Reserves Policy and currently the reserves of £14,778.84 all held in cash exceeds the minimum reserves by £1,124.02





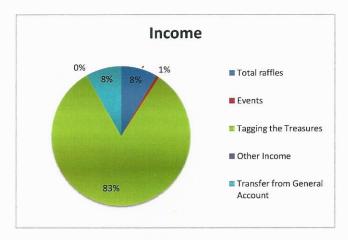
Good Causes Account

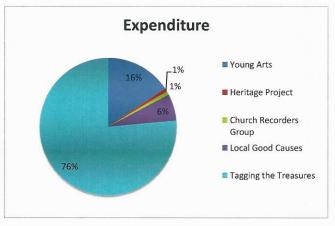
Young Arts supported by Fylde DFAS over the last year by nearly £2,000 and over £750 donated to Local Charities

£9,470 was spent on the "Tagging the Treasures" Project. A grant of £9,600 was received towards this expenditure

The Good Causes Account shows the income from events, raffles and the transfer from the general account of £1,000 during the last financial year.

	Year	Year	
	to	to	
	31/07/2015	31/07/2014	
Total raffles	1,033	1,276	
Events	79	1,057	
Tagging the Treasures	10,025		
Other Income		1	
Transfer from General Account	1,000	1,000	
Total Income	12,137	3,334	
Less: Expenditure			
Young Arts	1,943	602	
Heritage Project	94	73	
Church Recorders Group	104	456	
Local Good Causes	775		
Tagging the Treasures	9,470	10,768	
Total Expenditure	12,386	11,899	
Surplus/Deficit	- 249	- 8,565	
Good Causes Account at beginning of the year	5,996	14,561	
Good Causes as at 31st July 2015	5,747	5,996	





All surplus funds are held at the bank with most of the funds held on deposit.

The accounts have been certified as true and fair by Jeremy Stirrup our Independent Financial Examiner. Full accounts are available.

Please contact the treasurer Jean Holland (jeanho23@hotmail.com), if you require a copy.



Our Organisation

This year the Society has been managed by 12 Committee Members and 1 Co-opted Member admirably assisted by over 50 volunteers who give continuous and valuable support in a range of activities and events.

We are inspired, encouraged and supported throughout by our Honorary President, Hugh Ellwood, a highly regarded NADFAS lecturer.

Chair	Jo Darbyshire	
Vice-Chair	Kate Cartmell	Additionally. Drawn from Youth,; design/publicity, Tapestry Project
Treasurer	Jean Holland	Additionally: Events
Secretary	Marion Nuttall	Additionally. Risk Management,: Fire Safety
Committee Members	Jacqueline Arundel	Coordinator :Heritage Project, Tagging the Treasures
	Rita Calvert	Coordinator: Volunteers. Additionally. Events
	Christine Cockburn	Coordinator: Visits, SIDs. Additionally. Raffles, events
- 10	Pat Corless	Strategic Planning
107 (1)	Olga Depledge	Programme Secretary. Additionally. Events
	Pam Foster	Coordinator: Media & Communications Additionally. Newsletter Editor
	Pauline Hamilton	Membership Secretary
	Elaine Wolstencroft	Coordinator: Tours
Co-opted	Angela Brown	Coordinator: Young Arts



