

Fylde Decorative and Fine Arts Society

A Member Society of NADFAS



FYLDE
DFAS

Annual Report 2009 -10

Arts Education and Heritage Conservation

ANNUAL REPORT

Chair's Report.

This is not a typical Annual Report and for that I make no apology, because this has not been a typical year in the life of a Decorative and Fine Arts Society. Actually it has been eighteen months of burning the midnight oil as we identified a home, set up all the systems, dealt with health and safety requirements etc. There have been real bonuses too in the form of many new friendships and a lot of laughs along the way. Indeed I thought it might be interesting for you to know the story not "Behind the Acanthus" but "Behind the Windmill" and the inception of Fylde DFAS so here goes.....

Our small Steering Committee worked tremendously hard for seven months to achieve the demanding targets that NADFAS set us before we were assessed and allowed to be inaugurated. At the same time we were committed to a marketing and publicity drive to raise awareness and build a membership from across the area. On reaching the Inaugural Day we were given a £500 start up grant by NADFAS but up until then funded everything through people's personal generosity, identifying funding opportunities and submitting bids. We were very successful I am glad to say, but yes, it was a period of sleepless nights for us all and NADFAS House has decided to change its policy in relation to funding new societies as a result.

Our next task was to put together a programme of lectures, a study day and an excursion and for this purpose we purchased the hallowed tome of NADFAS accredited lecturers known as The Directory. Every March there is a Directory Meeting in London where your Society representatives gather, listen to some sample lectures and "speed date" lecturers for the year ahead. It is something of a "bunfight", but I think you will agree that, though this was our first stab at it, we managed to provide [despite the snow and the train strikes] a diverse and stimulating programme. It is impossible to please everyone but judging by the buzz in the Hall at the end of each session we don't feel we have done too badly. Next year is going to be even better!

The Inaugural Meeting was a very special occasion, sunny and bright with a wonderful turnout of people including an array of dignitaries and a speaker who made sure that everyone stayed awake. It was a tremendous pleasure to welcome the National Chair, Gri Harrison to the Fylde. It was her first such event in her new role and I know she was as nervous as we were.

So what of the future? With our membership numbers almost at capacity, the challenge now lies in sustaining them as well as in recruiting new committee members and volunteers. I have been ably assisted by a talented, conscientious and talkative Committee who have devised policies and tracking systems, established good financial practices, edited papers, created displays, hosted events and held numerous meetings. Long may we work together! The volunteers have proved to be a wonderful resource whom we couldn't manage without. They have helped us with projection, refreshments, organisation of raffles, web and newsletter design and acted as fire marshals. We do still need more though.

Breaking news as I write this report is that we have been awarded the NADFAS Media Digital Award for 2009 for our web-site. This is an outstanding achievement for a new Society and I would like to thank and congratulate everyone who has contributed but especially our volunteer, Marie Riley, who designed, established and is maintaining the site. We are very proud to receive this prestigious award.

We now have a very supportive president, Jo Darbyshire FRSA DL to keep us all in order! I can only applaud a great team who have contributed so much and look forward to 2010-11, confident that with your help the sails of our windmill will gather momentum and we will go from strength to strength.

Hilary Alcock. [Chair]

Programme Secretary & Special Interest Days Coordinator's Report.

An enjoyable programme of lectures has been well received during this first year beginning with an excellent Inaugural Lecture on the history of British Landscape Art. Other lectures relating to painting and individual artists have been especially popular, including work of Glasgow Artists at the turn of the 20th century and also an in-depth lecture on the Art of Portraiture. Unfortunately, the lecture on Klimt, Schiele and Kokoschka had to be postponed due to inclement weather but happily it has now been re-arranged for September. A range of other interesting lectures included Japanese Garden Design, Yuletide Traditions and Customs, a closer look at Silver; and a fascinating insight into the Cultural Life of Bhutan. The year ends with two topical local lecture subjects, namely Seaside Architecture and, fittingly to Lytham St Annes, a history related to the Royal and Ancient Game of Golf - and the British Queens 1120-1920. Two of our lecturers this year have been practising artists which has given an added dimension to their lectures.

Our lecture programme is planned over a three-year span, enabling us to offer a wider balanced range of subjects for our lectures. We endeavour to provide further interest in each lecture by means of related displays of background material and also give notification of local and regional gallery exhibitions. Leaflets about the current lecture are available in two different font sizes for the benefit of those with impaired vision. Additional information about each lecture may be found also on our website. Contributions are much valued from members who have visited recent Gallery Exhibitions of interest and wish to share their impressions with other members. A Suggestion Box is always available on the welcome table at the back of the hall, near to the Entrance doorway.

A very successful Special Interest Day has been held recently at Lytham Hall with three outstanding and inspiring lectures offered, allowing us a deeper appreciation of the Development of Modern Sculpture from 1900 to present day. A vast range of familiar images from this period were clearly and sensitively explained and also some of the more recent contemporary work to be found both in this country and the United States. As with our earlier successful, over-subscribed Christmas Festive Lunch at Lytham Hall, both these occasions provided a most enjoyable opportunity for members to meet socially.

Our yearly lecture programme will continue to be closely linked to the underlying NADFAS aims relating to Arts Education and Cultural Heritage.

Kate Cartmell [Programme Secretary & Special Interest Days Coordinator]

FYLDE DFAS
Income and Expenditure Account
For the year to 31 December 2009

	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>Net income</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Subscriptions	3,066.25		3,066.25
Visitors' fees	62.50		62.50
Study Days and Events	1,660.00	1,620.00	40.00
Donations	355.00		355.00
NADFAS	591.20		591.20
Refreshments at Meetings	59.55		59.55
Grants	1,770.00		1,770.00
Raffles	138.00	5.34	132.66
Bank interest	5.24		5.24
	<u>7,707.74</u>	<u>1,625.34</u>	<u>6,082.40</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Lecture fees and expenses			1,005.70
NADFAS charges			164.50
Hire of meeting rooms			370.00
Refreshments at meetings			10.00
Printing, stationery and postage			325.69
Committee members' expenses			23.70
Expenses reclaimable from NADFAS			91.20
Application Fee to NADFAS			150.00
Equipment			1,877.10
Miscellaneous expenditure			220.18
			<u>4,238.07</u>
Surplus/ (deficit) before awards and discretionary expenditure			1,844.33
<u>Awards and discretionary expenditure</u>			
Young Arts			
Church Recorders			
			<u>1,844.33</u>
<u>Surplus/ (deficit) for the year</u>			1,844.33
General Fund at beginning of year			
<u>General Fund at 31 December 2009</u>			<u>1,844.33</u>

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2009

<u>Current Assets</u>	
Cash at bank and in hand	11,212.80
Debtors and prepaid expenses	3.00
	<u>11,215.80</u>
<u>less Current Liabilities</u>	
Deferred income from subscriptions	(9,198.75)
Other creditors and accrued expenses	(172.72)
	<u>(9,371.47)</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>	<u>1,844.33</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>	
General Reserve	<u>1,844.33</u>
	<u>1,844.33</u>

Tom Houghton [Treasurer]

Events Secretary's Report.

Recruitment Coffee Mornings. 9th, 16th June and 1st July 2009

Three Coffee Mornings were held during the summer of 2009, at the home of the Events Secretary. Prospective members were treated to coffee and homemade cakes and had the opportunity to meet the Steering Committee. A brief presentation about the proposed Fylde DFAS was given by our Chair, Hilary Alcock.

The Committee was thrilled at the level of attendance and by the high percentage of attendees who as a result became Fylde DFAS members.

Recruitment will be an on-going activity and so further coffee mornings and other events are being considered to ensure we have a thriving and involved membership.

If members know of anyone who would like to attend a recruitment event, please give their names to either Olga Depledge - Membership Secretary, or Barbara Weston - Recruitment Co-ordinator.

New Volunteers' Afternoon Tea.

On 12 November 2009 a healthy number of volunteers met with Committee members in the Community Room at the United Reformed Church Hall, to hear about the projects/tasks with which they could become involved. After discussion the group enjoyed tea and cakes and informal 'getting to know you' conversations.

If anyone else is interested in becoming actively involved in Fylde DFAS, please give your contact details to Marion Nuttall or Barbara Weston. Volunteers are needed to help organise additional social events and fund raising activities.

Christmas Lunch.

Over 80 members attended the Christmas Lunch on 16 December 2009 at Lytham Hall. Members were greeted with a glass of warming mulled wine and then gathered in the hall around a roaring log fire to listen to seasonal music before moving to the upper hall for a traditional Christmas lunch. Many messages of appreciation were received from those who attended about the choice of venue, the quality of the food and the friendly atmosphere created at the event.

The members Christmas lunch will this year be held at the Grand Hotel, St Annes.-on-Sea on Tuesday 14 December. Full details will be available at the June meeting.

Visits Coordinator's Report.

At the time of writing the first day visit is keenly anticipated. The visit is to Yorkshire Sculpture Park with Canon Hall Museum on 9 June 2010.

This has proved to be a popular choice with most places being reserved shortly after announcing the visit. Members will have the opportunity to view the extensive exhibition of David Nash's work and to join a specialist tour led by Yorkshire Sculpture Park Curators. After a light lunch and some free time to explore the picturesque grounds the party will travel to the nearby Canon Hall Museum where they will tour the 17th century house.

Barbara Weston [Events Secretary & Visits Coordinator]

Church Recording Report.

With the establishment and development of Church Recording high on its priorities Fylde DFAS members have been involved in discussions and feasibility studies for several months. The Fylde has a variety of churches offering much potential which compensates for the relative limited depth in history.

Following a meeting with the NADFAS Area Coordinator for Heritage and Church Recording a church for our first project has been identified and approached. We have already received a favourable response and expect to receive confirmation from them in the near future.

A training programme is planned for July this year and if any members are interested they are welcome to join the group. Contact is through the Vice-Chair, Philip Bailey.

Philip Bailey [Coordinator]

Young Arts Report.

As one of its objectives, NADFAS aims to inspire young people with an enthusiasm for the arts and an awareness of our arts heritage and its conservation. Societies are encouraged to promote high quality arts activities for young people by supporting Young Arts Groups or Young Arts Projects.

It was difficult for us to identify a Young Arts Project because, as a new Society, the amount of surplus money which could be spared was virtually nothing. We hit on the idea of the monthly raffle providing a dedicated income to this area of the Society's activities. This has proved quite successful and prize winners have been thrilled with their books, which are normally related to the lecture subject and we now have a dedicated income to support this area of volunteering.

For this year we have allocated the greater part of the fund to the sponsorship of an exhibition of the work of a talented but struggling young artist and paper sculptress from Fleetwood, Heather Leadbetter. Heather was the first in her family to go to university and achieved a first class honours degree in textile design from Nottingham Trent University. Her work attracted much interest for its unusual and magical qualities. She exhibited in London, at the Design Centre in Islington and at the West Yorkshire Sculpture Park, alongside nationally acclaimed paper artist Rob Ryan. She now lives locally, working in Gt Ecclestone.

With the help of some funding from Fylde DFAS, Heather has been able to create some new pieces of work which we arranged to have exhibited for local audiences at Lytham Hall and the Fylde Gallery in Booths. We were also able to arrange for some media involvement to showcase her work across the county, so thank you to everyone for your support and especially to those volunteers who organised the raffles.

Hilary Alcock [Chair]