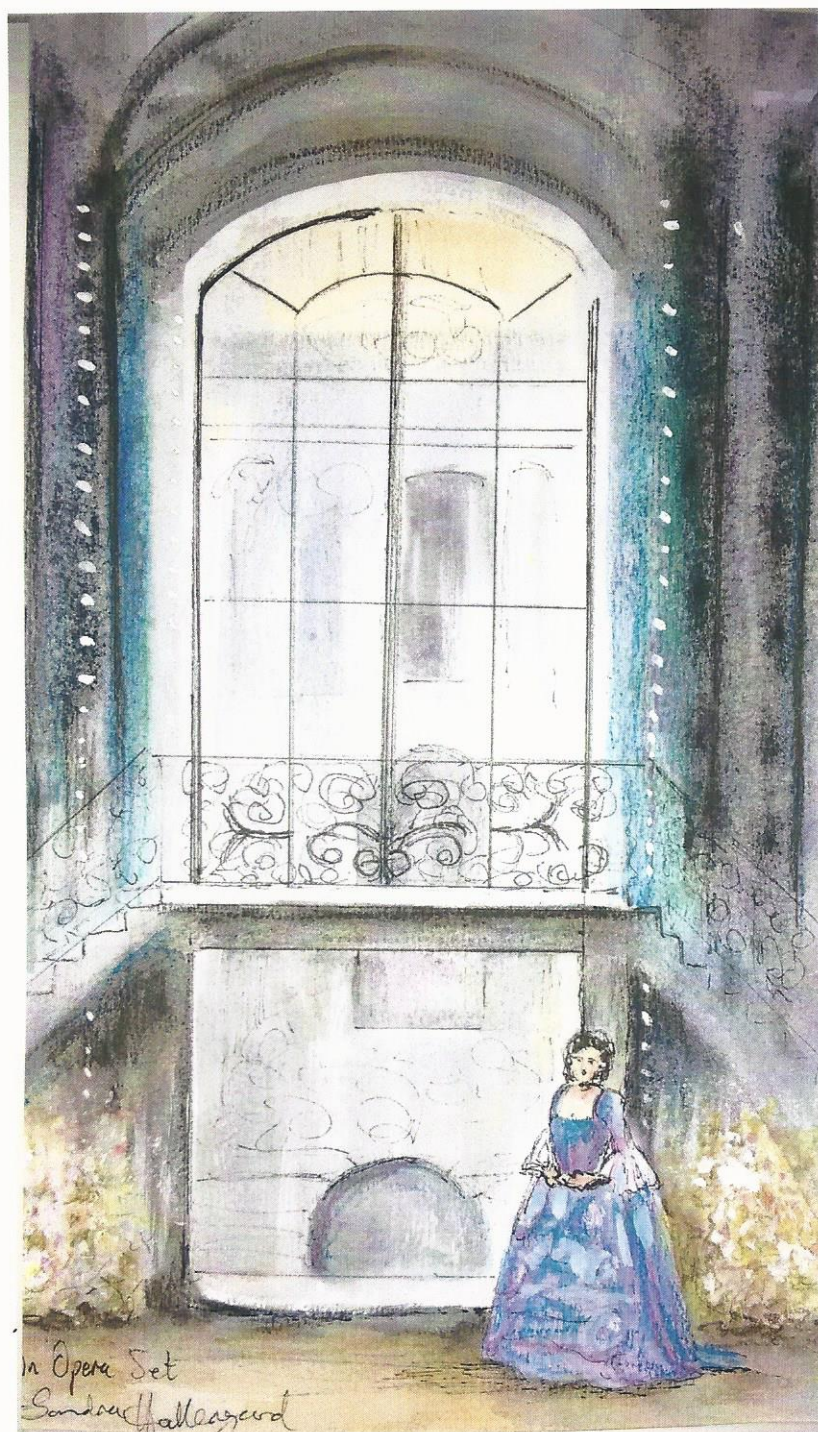


FYLDE DFAS

Fylde Decorative & Fine Arts Society

Member of the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies

ARTS, EDUCATION, HERITAGE & CONSERVATION



PIA OPERA SET by Sandra Hallergard

THE ART OF ACHIEVEMENT

7th Annual Report

2015 - 2016

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Chair's Report

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2015-16.

It has been a privilege to Chair FDFAS this year and it is not exaggeration to say that the year to July 31 2016 has been stupendous in our achievements.

- Three winners of prestigious national arts awards from 'Drawn from Youth 6'
- Research on 'Tagging the Treasures' short-listed for national award
- Membership at maximum number and a waiting list
- Healthy bank balance
- Publications & displays commended for style & quality by NADFAS Trustees & lecturers

Firstly I hope that you have enjoyed the lecture programme. This is what NADFAS is well known for and is the major offering to members. Our Programme Team has provided a varied, and always interesting range of subjects and topics. It is impossible to please everyone all the time but I think our team has excelled itself this year. Lecture days are busy with plenty of volunteers needed to help with everything from the welcome group to the technical team who bring in the equipment to enable the speaker to deliver the lecture, not to mention the fire wardens who are placed at strategic points during the lecture. Thanks to all of them.... You all do a great job.

At last year's AGM I reported progress on our voluntary projects which were on the cusp of completion. I had every confidence that 'Drawn from Youth 6' and 'Tagging the Treasures' Projects would reach successful completion and they did indeed. The 'Drawn from Youth Project' achieved no less than three NADFAS/RBA prestigious awards and the work was exhibited at the Mall Gallery, London in March... the best number we have ever had. The catalogue produced by Jacqueline Love and her team of Taggers is just fantastic. Copies were snapped up at the launch evening, with our partners at Fylde Borough Council, Friends of the Lytham St Annes Art Collection and Lancashire County Council speaking in support of their achievement. At the time of writing the Team is nominated for an English Heritage Angels Award, a Charitable Foundation of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber. We wish them well for the announcement of the awards in October. These two projects from our volunteering arms... Young Arts and Heritage have made a great contribution to the enjoyment, learning and opportunities in arts and culture locally and nationally. HUGE congratulations to you all we are very proud of you.

The Consultative Document 'Looking forward to our Future 2020' was presented at the AGM last year and it was agreed that the Committee would consider items

'Our Membership and 'Our Programme'. A small group was established to identify responsibilities and time frames for the five- year programme and the Committee has agreed a timetable which will bring forward the items mentioned in these paragraphs. Our first venture will be the Programme Launch Evening in October. There will be time to discuss the oncoming 2016-17 Programme and to talk to Leaders of our Lecture programme, Tours and Special Interest Days about future Programmes. Leaders of our voluntary projects will also be available so do come along and share in the future of Fylde DFAS. The Committee took the view that these sections should be placed before the AGM because they would involve the spending of Society funds.

The Committee has also been active in discussing 'Our Organisation' and members heard at the July lecture that we hoped to run a Pilot project for up to 2 years to reduce the size of the Committee, which would be responsible for governance & strategy and for the programme of activities to be more informally led and operationally managed by Team Leaders. This would enable members to dip in and out of the teams and to be involved in specific projects without the long term commitment of a Committee position. A simply enormous amount of paperwork has been accomplished to make this Pilot a reality and I would like to thank both fellow Officers and Committee members for their hard work and contributions to enable the Pilot to start on the 1st October 2016. Please help us with this Pilot and enable us to achieve the aims set out in document. This is an exciting project and if successful could well be rolled out across other NADFAS societies.

Thank you to all our Committee Members but particularly Olga Depledge and Kate Cartmell who have been on the Committee from the beginning. Olga has served as our Membership Secretary and our Programme Secretary and her quiet expertise and efficiency are greatly admired. Kate has served as Programme Secretary, Vice Chair and Coordinator for Young Arts and will continue her role in Young Arts by becoming the Young Arts Team Leader.

Finally I would like to thank you all for playing your part in the success and achievements of Fylde DFAS in the last year. I know that we are a high achieving Society but I would like to think that we are a happy group of people enjoying our membership and the friendships made. All members are volunteers and membership is a "leisure occupation" so do enjoy it.

"Perspective is the guide and the gate, the rein and the rudder of painting" - Leonardo da Vinci

Jo Darbyshire

Our Programme

As in previous years, our aim in planning the year has been to provide a programme of **lectures, visits, tours, Special Interest Days and events** that covers a wide range of interests. I think we have achieved this admirably. We have been happy to act on a number of members' suggestions and we continue to welcome your opinions and ideas for the future.

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 have pleasure in presenting my last report to the Society as Programme Secretary. As in previous years, my aim in planning the year has been to provide a programme of lectures that covers a variety of arts topics from different periods and different countries, presented by high quality speakers.

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 House in London, scoring the overall reaction of the lecture. This process helps us gauge the response from members and gives NADFAS House 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 eight lecturers, one 'good' and one 'outstanding' which is an indication of the high quality but also of the value of the feedback system in maintaining such high standards.

Some of the highlights of the past season included:

- The opening lecture by Catherine Wallace on the life and works of Harold and Laura Knight and on the Cornish village of Lamorna; this was a new topic for the Society and was generally very well received;
- A very popular lecturer in December 2015 was Anne Haworth on blue and white porcelain, looking at its origins in China, the influence on European customers and providers including more recent images of production in China. Her enthusiastic lecture received an 'excellent' response;

- The February visit of Susan Williams introduced us to tapestry, covering very early works and, for example, the tapestry commissioned for the Queen of Denmark and produced for the millennium. She is a commanding speaker, enthusing both those who had a previous interest in the subject and those who knew less about tapestries, looking, as she did, at their long history, from the medieval to the present day;
- The final lecture for the season dealt with the contemporary artist, Grayson Perry. Ian Swankie's outstanding lecture covered the wide range of work for which Grayson Petty is rightly praised – ceramics, painting and tapestries – and put some context into the fashion statements of his alter ego, Claire;
- Our President, Hugh Ellwood, spoke to the Society in January, taking as his subject Augustus Pugin – "God's Romantic Victorian Architect", and speaking about his family history, early works, national commissions and local examples of his outstanding skills. Hugh is an experienced and knowledgeable speaker whose lectures are always warmly welcomed – and greatly enjoyed – by the Society's members.

This programme has been my last as your Programme Secretary. I have worked closely with Pauline Hamilton in planning the 2016-17 programme and she now takes over this responsibility. I know that she views the work as a challenge that she is taking on with enthusiasm and commitment and I am sure that we can look forward to interesting, informative and entertaining lectures in future years. The Society's future programme is in safe hands with Pauline and I wish her well.

I have very much enjoyed planning the Society's lecture programme and I am happy to record my thanks to friends and colleagues on the Committee and to all the members of the Society for their help and support in this work.

Olga Depledge: Programme Secretary



Visits & Special Interest Days

Five events have taken place.

In early December 2015 fifty-eight members and friends travelled to Clitheroe. After a pleasant morning exploring the town we drove to **Browshome Hall**, the ancestral home of the Parkers for over 500 years. There we enjoyed a guided tour seeing the Hall's magnificent architecture, fabulous interiors and antique furnishings. The Hall was decorated for Christmas with trees, lights, open fires and candles and following our tour we assembled in the beautifully restored 18th century tithe Barn where we all enjoyed a **Christmas Celebratory Afternoon Tea** with prosecco before leaving for home.

Sixty-five of us went to the Dalmeny Hotel, St. Annes for our first **Special Interest Day** in February 2016 to hear NADFAS lecturer, Carole Petipher, give two excellent lectures on **'The Collections of Napoleon & Josephine'** and **'Ups & downs in the lives of the Impressionists.'** The lectures were first-class and the presentation outstanding. An excellent lunch was served in the Atrium and everyone greatly enjoyed the day on 19th century France.

"One of the best days ever."

[FDFAS Member]

Our second visit was to Manchester in April. In a full coach we travelled first to the recently opened **Regency Home of Elizabeth Gaskell**, the famous 19th century author. We explored the period rooms and garden and then enjoyed refreshments in the tea-room before travelling a short distance to the ART Fund Award winning **Whitworth Art Gallery**. After lunch we were free to explore the notable collections, modern works and installations of art on display before refreshments and the journey home.

Early in June seventy-six members & friends gathered for our second **Special Interest Day** at the Fylde Rugby Club, Lytham for **'Jewellery and Gems'** with NADFAS lecturer and BBC **Antiques Roadshow** presenter, Susan Rumfitt. Her two lectures, **'Love, Power and Scandal: a Royal Jewel for every Occasion'** and **'Designed for Wearing: Jewellery in the 20th century'** were stimulating, informative and stunningly presented--without notes.

In July forty-seven of us travelled to the **'World of**

Wedgwood, Stoke-on-Trent for our last visit this year. Following the introductory talk and a light lunch, members were free to explore the site. We enjoyed a factory tour which showed the skills and techniques used to produce the pottery seen in shops. The museum houses the vast and priceless collection of ceramics dating from 1789 and it was interesting to see the documents, manuscripts and equipment from the past.

I have enjoyed organising these events for members and would like to thank everyone for your attendance, support and appreciation I have received since 2010.

Christine Cockburn.

[Visits/SIDs Coordinator 2010—15]

ENRICHING LIVES: SHARING EXPERIENCES.

Achieved success—165 on Visits, 140 on SIDs and 72 on Tours this year

Tours

As previously two tours were organised this year:

In late September 2015, forty-five members & friends flew to Vienna for a cultural tour **'History, Art & Palaces of Vienna'** staying for 4 nights at the 4* Renaissance Hotel.

On the first day our Tour Guide, Ursula, led us on a city tour taking in the imperial and architectural beauty of the city, a reminder of the wealth of the Hapsburgs and the splendour of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. During our tour we visited the Karlskirche, the largest Baroque cathedral north of the Alps and St. Stephen's Cathedral, dating back to 1147. The tour finished with a visit to Schonbrunn Palace, commissioned in 1696 by Leopold 1, completed in 1730 and where, in the Hall of Mirrors, Mozart aged six gave his first recital.

The next day we had a scenic wooded coach ride along the Danube Valley to Melk where a guide took us round the Baroque Abbey which towers above the Danube. It began as a palace stronghold in the 12th century and the interior is lavishly gilded. Melk is a pretty town with Renaissance buildings dating back to 1831 and after lunch we embarked on a picturesque cruise along the Danube to Krems, the area centre of the wine industry. In the evening most of us travelled by metro to the centre of Vienna for dinner.

The following morning was spent at the Albertina, a grand Viennese palace which has recently been made home of a permanent exhibition tracing the progression from Impressionism to Modernism. The artists ranged from the French masters Monet, Degas and Cezanne to Picasso and the abstract expressionists Mark Rothko and Sam Francis. After that we explored the Kunsthistorisches Museum with its magnificent Baroque collections. In the evening most of us enjoyed a Strauss and Mozart Concert at the Kursalon in Vienna from the very place Johann Strauss used to direct his orchestra.

On our last day we visited Prince Eugene of Savoy's Upper Belvedere Palace, completed in 1723 and today displaying examples from the late 19th century Jugendstil Movement, the result of which was the foundation of the Secession by a group of artists in 1897, of which the central figure was Gustav Klimt. Our UK tour, **'Historic Houses & Art of Yorkshire'** was at the end of June 2015 when twenty-seven of us first visited Newby Hall. Built under the guidance of Sir Christopher Wren, it is one of England's finest Adam houses and offers an exceptional example of 18th century interior decoration. After a guided tour ---the guide is a former resident of Lytham St. Annes and was interested to hear about the Society---we travelled to Harrogate for two nights at the 4* Majestic Hotel.

We then travelled to York where we had a guided walking tour of the city seeing the City Wall, Shambles and the Minster, the largest Gothic Cathedral in northern Europe. Later we had an audio tour at York Art Gallery recently re-opened following a £8m redevelopment. The gallery is the home of the Lycett Green collection of Italian Old Masters from the 14th -18th century as well as works by renowned 20th century artists such as LS Lowry, Sarah Lucas and, of course, William Etty, York's most famous artist. In the evening a few of us attended a play at the Minster.

Our last day was spent at Castle Howard, set in a beautiful 1,000 acre park adorned with rose gardens, lakes and fountains. This magnificent, richly furnished 18th century house is home to the Howard family and is portrayed as Kensington Palace in ITV's current drama 'Victoria'. After lunch we continued to Allerton Castle which is an elegant and important Gothic revival stately home. It was built by the Lord Mowbray, Segrave and Stourton, the premier Baron of England, as a monumental statement of his position within the English aristocracy.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Fylde DFAS Tours Coordinator and I look forward to enjoying future tours with the members who have become friends.

Elaine Wolstencroft.
[Tours Coordinator 2012—15]

"Best UK Tour: will be hard to beat"
[DFAS Member]

Events

Three other events have successfully taken place this year.

In September 2015 our President, Hugh Ellwood, gave a very informative and interesting lecture to over eighty members and friends on the art and architecture of Vienna, followed by an Austrian-themed supper at Old Links Golf Club, St. Annes. Hugh's lectures are becoming an annual part of our 'DFAS at Night' programme and are thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

In the following month we welcomed twelve new members to our 'New Members' Coffee Morning' at the Bedford Hotel, St. Annes. They were welcomed by members of the Committee who discussed with them their interests and the opportunities within the Society especially the volunteering projects and also the wider context of NADFAS.

Lastly, breaking with tradition we didn't have a Christmas Lunch but instead celebrated the New Year with lunch at the Grand Hotel, St. Annes. Seventy-five people were there including our Founder Chair, Hilary Alcock and her husband, Doug. Trevor Mackay provided the entertainment.

The Society is grateful to Rita Calvert, Volunteers Coordinator and Alicia Grant together with other members who helped to organise these events.

Our Finances

Summary Financial Report for the Period ended 31 July 2016

General Account

Membership is lower as the committee has restricted it to 240. There is a waiting list.

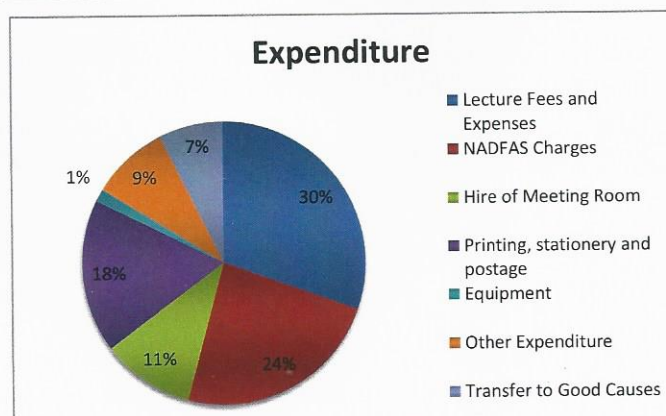
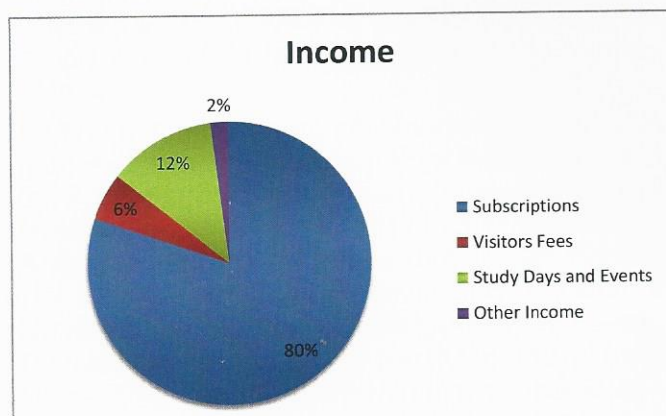
Increased revenue was generated from the support of the membership to the study days and events.

£1,000 was transferred to the Good Causes Account for the benefit of local charities and Young Arts.

Expenditure on printing and stationery was reduced by nearly £1500.

The General Account showed a surplus of £1077.59 over the year to 31st July 2016, after transferring £1000 to the Good Causes Account.

	Year to 31/07/2016	Year to 31/07/2015
Subscriptions	11,875	12,521
Visitors Fees	808	608
Study Days and Events	1,821	1,484
Other Income	297	458
Total Income	14,802	15,072
Less: Expenditure		
Lecture Fees and Expenses	4,187	4,098
NADFAS Charges	3,250	3,261
Hire of Meeting Room	1,460	1,152
Printing, stationery and postage	2,403	3,890
Equipment	203	161
Other Expenditure	1,221	1,090
Transfer to Good Causes	1,000	1,000
Total Expenditure	13,724	14,651
Surplus	1,078	421
General fund at beginning of the year	14,779	14,358
General fund as at 31st July 2016	15,856	14,779



The committee have a reserve policy and currently the reserves of £15,856.43 all held in cash exceeds the minimum reserves by £3,180.38

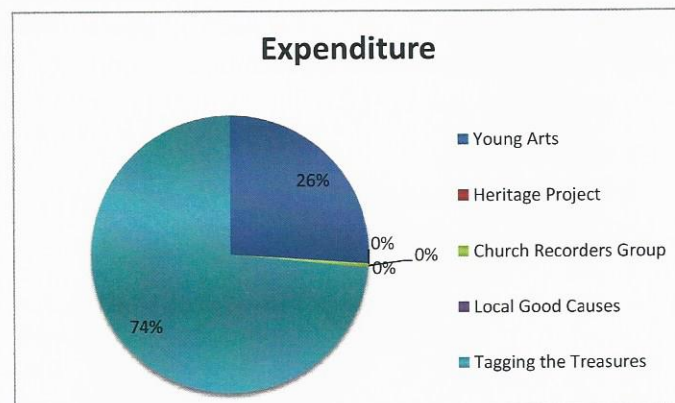
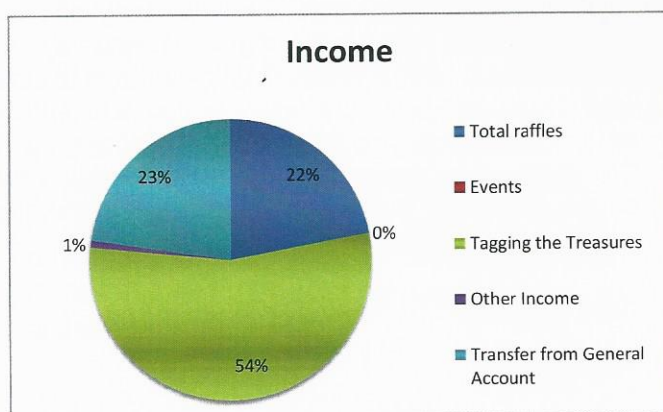
Good Causes Account

Tagging the Treasures Project was very successfully completed during the year with net expenditure of £1,767 covered by previous grants.

Young Art expenditure slightly lower at £1,483.

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 to 31/07/2016	Year to 31/07/2015
Total raffles	970	1,033
Events	-	78
Tagging the Treasures	2,403	10,025
Other Income	35	
Transfer from General Account	1,000	1,000
Total Income	4,408	12,137
Less: Expenditure		
Young Arts	1,483	1,943
Heritage Project	-	94
Church Recorders Group	25	104
Local Good Causes	-	775
Tagging the Treasures	4,170	9,470
Total Expenditure	5,678	12,386
Surplus/Deficit	- 1,270	- 249
Good Causes Account at beginning of the year	5,747	5,996
Good Causes as at 31st July 2016	4,477	5,747



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.

Volunteering Projects: Young Arts

Our sixth annual **'Drawn from Youth'** Exhibition was held at the Fylde Gallery, Lytham in March 2016 showing A-level artwork from local schools and colleges.

NADFAS works in collaboration with the Royal Society of British Artists (RBA) to offer a national competition for A-level students in the UK. Fylde DFAS has participated in this annual competition since 2011 and has to date won six NADFAS/ RBA Awards. While very pleased to have received these national awards, the Society felt that the standard of high quality artwork submitted by Fylde's sixth formers deserved further recognition and so in 2011 it held its first public 'Drawn from Youth' Exhibition at Fylde Gallery in Lytham. This highly successful exhibition has since been held each year, providing a wonderful opportunity for networking with schools, art teachers, judges, students, their families and friends.

This year, three Fylde students won further National NADFAS/ RBA prestigious awards, enabling them to have their selected artwork displayed alongside that of practising artists at the RBA Annual Exhibition at the Mall Galleries in London. Successful students are also entitled to be called RBA Scholars for the duration of the Exhibition - a most exciting, valuable addition for future references in their curriculum vitae! We were delighted that Katie Hampson, one of our first awards winner in 2012, now a successful artist with a honours degree, agreed to join the panel of judges. In celebration, we were pleased to welcome three mayoral parties as honoured guests and the National Chair of NADFAS, June Robinson, who kindly opened the 'Drawn from Youth 6' Exhibition and presented prizes to the winners.

ACHIEVEMENT: INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Three Fylde students won National NADFAS/RBA Awards this year

All artwork submitted to London is exhibited in the 'Drawn from Youth' Exhibition, supplemented with further high-quality artwork selected by the teachers. In all 64 students exhibited 96 items of stunning artwork, including drawings, sketches and paintings using various media; ceramics in varied form, including highly-complex sculpture; textiles, jewellery and photographs. Inviting all

participating students with their parents and teachers, over 200 visitors attended the Preview event, including also Officials from nearby NADFAS Societies; Civic dignitaries from Fylde, including local Arts and Education Advisory Services and Gallery Curators from within the Fylde area. Our Visitors' Book was full of appreciative praise.

ACHIEVEMENT: ENGAGING WITH THE PUBLIC

Over 200 visitors attended the Preview of the 'Drawn from Youth' Exhibition.

Fylde DFAS is most grateful to the teachers for their support and hard work in preparing for the exhibition and to the students for their creativity, talent and enthusiasm. It would also like to thank Fylde Borough Council and the Arts Working Group for enabling us to bring this excellent exhibition to the Fylde Gallery.

We are very proud to offer such valuable opportunities in support of Young Artists in the Fylde and we will endeavour to continue inspiring them to strive for careers in the professional world of art.

Our other Young Arts Project this year was **'Play is medicine too'** the on-going project arranged with two local hospitals. Art trolleys were filled last year with art materials, requested by the hospital staff, supplied by Fylde DFAS. This year the two volunteers concerned have re-visited the hospitals and have re-stocked materials as needed. The hospital staff were so appreciative of our actions, explaining the value gained by so many of their young patients. A thank you card was made by the children and, with a moving letter written by the staff, presented to our volunteers when they returned recently to re-stock the trolleys. Our Committee has agreed to review the situation for continuing this much appreciated, worthwhile project in the New Year.

Kate Cartmell [Young Arts Coordinator]



Volunteering Projects: Heritage & Church Recording

July 2016 saw the completion of the Heritage Lottery Funded two-year initiative, **Tagging the Treasures Project** [TTT] to catalogue the Lytham St. Annes Art Collection. The project has for the first time brought about a recognition of the Collection that had never previously enjoyed any public profile. Perhaps one of the greatest achievements of the Project has been to shine the spotlight on the amazing heritage of Lytham St. Annes and to signpost ways to engage with it.

"As a seaside resort attracting many tourists, we often refer to the 'jewels in our crown'----our wide, expansive beach and our glorious parks & gardens for example, but one of the brightest jewels is the LSA Art Collection, consisting of artworks, sculptures, artefacts and furniture, bequeathed and donated over the years to the former Lytham St. Annes Borough Council for the enjoyment of its residents"

Fylde Council Leader, Sue Fazackerley.

Many more people are now aware of the Collection and the donors whose stories have been told. These stories have helped the public connect to the Collection and understand how their lives and philanthropy connect to local history.

One hundred and fifty volunteers were engaged in research, invigilation at exhibitions and other activities enabling research on 240 artworks, 125 artists and 88 donors. A group of core researchers are continuing to work on the Collection and others have used their new curatorial skills to put together another exhibition 'Liverpool Influences' at the time of writing showing at the Fylde Gallery, Lytham. Our research has been transferred to other sites such as Wiki, Oxford Art Online & the British Library allowing historians and other academics to access it.

ACHIEVEMENT: INCREASING PARTICIPATION. LIFE-LONG LEARNING.
Volunteers' time over 2 years = 5,943 days > 47,540 hours.

"For our members it has been a wonderful experience to learn the tasks required"

[TTT Project Coordinator]

Recently we heard the wonderful news that the TTT Project has been shortlisted for the 'Best Research Project' category of the Historic England Angel Awards. Founded by Andrew Lloyd Webber these awards celebrate the efforts of local people who have saved historic buildings & places and the efforts of people who go to extraordinary lengths to protect, save and share their local heritage. The winners will be announced on 31 October 2016.

This is a great honour for Fylde DFAS and all our Taggers. Congratulations to you all.

In terms of legacy, many are now aware of the need for a permanent national standards Art Centre & Gallery in the area with suitable storage for the collection and space for exhibitions, so that art can be seen by the public.

**ACHIEVEMENT: PARTNERSHIPS.
REACHING OUT.**

The Friends of the Lytham St. Annes Art Collection, LCC Museums Service and Fylde DFAS have come together as informal partners to accomplish this project, well supported by other organisations.

Our other Heritage Project in which a **Tapestry Group** produced long kneelers for Stonyhurst College Chapel, Lancashire was completed after three years. The original and complex design was produced by Helen McCook who worked on the embroidery for the wedding dress worn by the Duchess of Cambridge. This large undertaking was achieved with contributions by a number of other local DFAS Societies.

Church Recording

The identification, researching and cataloguing of the contents of the Fairhaven United Reformed Church has been an enormous task and thanks to the work of the volunteers this has been completed. Unfortunately the completion of the final report has been unavoidably delayed and it is hoped that this will be finished in the near future.

Jacqueline Love [Heritage Coordinator]

Our Members

As Membership Secretary I am pleased to report that once again our membership numbers have remained buoyant over the period of 2015-16.

We started the 2015 Lecture Programme with **227** members that had risen to **241** members by July 2016 by which time we also had a waiting list of 27. Hopefully we will be able to accommodate most of the latter within the next year. As you know it is always a balancing act as the Hall can only accommodate 180 people.

Attendance at lectures has been similar to previous years with maximum attendance at the first three lectures of the season.

ACHIEVING IN RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Both very good for the 7th year in succession.

Once again I would like to thank the membership for responding so promptly with their renewals and also for their suggestions and support for the Society as a whole.

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.

I will be leaving my role as Membership Secretary this year and would like to say how much I have enjoyed meeting you all.

ACHIEVING LIFELONG LEARNING.

*Attendance at lectures this year:
members = 1466 and visitors = 105*

Interacting with our members in an inclusive way is one of the challenges for the media team. Members come with very different IT experience; some are more than at home on a computer while others may not have even an email address. While we are keen to embrace social media and shared services, it is important that we retain more traditional methods of communication to

accommodate everyone. Our policy of offering printed brochures, newsletters and the like will continue for the foreseeable future.

Our new newsletter format has been well received 'one of the most professional newsletters of all the NADFAS societies' [NADFAS Trustee] was one of the comments we received. We have increased the content to include items about or written by our members. Such content is growing slowly and we hope to build on this over the coming months, ensuring members feel very much a part of Fylde DFAS. Thanks to Simon Foster for his help with layout and printing.

Once again the number of individuals accessing our website has increased over the year, with many users coming from abroad. Not only does the site offer news items, information on upcoming events, notes on lectures, details of what's on at approximately 30 galleries in the North West and more, it also offers a valuable electronic archive. Our data shows that users frequently look at pages concerning lectures that were held three or four years ago, or re-visit information on Special Interest Days held in the past.

Social networks continue to open up broad channels of communication, enabling us to interact directly with both the local community and the wider world. We have increased our followers on both Twitter and Facebook over the year and, as members become increasingly more social media savvy, we look forward to further interaction and a sharing of information. We now have an extensive photo library on Flickr, dating back to our inauguration. The library includes photos of lectures, Special Interest Days, excursions, day trips and other events. It is available for members to browse and download photos of interest. Our thanks go to photographers Julie England, Ged Curley and Jacqueline Love.

REACHING OUT...COMMUNICATING WITH THE WORLD AT LARGE.

More followers on both Facebook & Twitter over the year.....more people accessing our website with many users from abroad

Each lecture is preceded by an electronic presentation, providing news, details of upcoming



events, information on the day's lecture and so on. These electronic notices cut down the amount of time previously required by the Chair to read them out manually, enabling us to start the lecture punctually. We hope you find them useful.

Getting the technology right is crucial for the smooth running of each lecture. There is the projector, at least one laptop, the lecturer's presentation, a high-tech sound system, metres of cables – all of which need to connect to each other. Our thanks go to volunteers Tony Depledge, Allan Foster, Philip Bailey and Ian Milner for maintaining the equipment, connecting it all together and making it look so simple.

Our members are our priority and we will continue to communicate with them according to their wants, while at the same time embracing new communications channels in order to market our society to a broader audience.

Pauline Hamilton
[Membership Secretary]

Pam Foster
[Media & Communications Coordinator]

Our Organisation

Postscript to a successful and eventful year.

This year the Society has been managed by 10 Committee Members admirably assisted by over 50 volunteers who give continuous and valuable support in a range of activities and events.

We are encouraged and supported throughout by our Honorary President, Hugh Ellwood, a highly regarded NADFAS lecturer in the UK and overseas.

Although outside the reporting period for this Annual Report, we couldn't wait until next year to update you on the success of our Volunteering Projects.

- Young Arts. NADFAS/RBA 2016 Competition—two awards to Arnold King Edward students. Total of 11 awards since 2011. Outstanding achievement.
- Heritage. Textile embroidery for Stonyhurst College Chapel completed and dedicated.
- Heritage. The short-listed 'Tagging the Treasures Project' unfortunately didn't win the national English Heritage Angels Award but the Team Leader and 5 volunteers enjoyed the Awards Ceremony in London.

Congratulations to Team Leaders Kate Cartmell [Young Arts] and Jacqueline Love [Heritage] and the volunteers who supported them.

October 1st 2016 marked the beginning of a new Programme Year for the Society and the beginning of a new operational structure referred to by the Chair in her Report. It is an interesting time in the development of the Society and early indications are encouraging with a significant number of volunteers coming forward at the Programme Launch Evening on 19th October, some offering to help with important tasks such as archiving and planning visits. The New Members' Coffee Morning on 22nd November was also well attended. Eighteen members came and many appeared to welcome involvement in the programme of activities. A big 'thank you' to all of them and we look forward to working with them in the future.

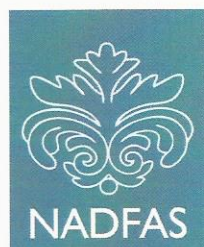
The Executive Committee Members & the Team Leaders are working hard in adapting to the changes in their roles in this Pilot and please let us know if you have a concern-- or something to commend us for-- your constructive comments are very important.

We hope you have an enjoyable and interesting year with Fylde DFAS.

Jo Darbyshire [Chair] & Marion Nuttall [Secretary].



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