

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE ARTS SOCIETY FYLDE
FOR THE YEAR 2019 – 2020.



INTRODUCTION.

I have pleasure in presenting this annual report to the Annual General Meeting of The Arts Society Fylde (TASF) on behalf of the excellent team who have governed the Society for this year of unprecedented challenges.

We started the season in September 2019 full of high hopes. We had our largest ever membership reflecting a highly successful year in 2018/19 when we started to operate under our new name and in our new venue. In October 2019 we celebrated our 10th Anniversary and looked forward to consolidating our success in a carefully crafted and planned series of lectures, events and study days. Sadly, only part of these plans came to fruition but, nevertheless, we managed an action packed six months from September 2019 to March 2020 when thereafter, as everyone knows, all lectures and events were cancelled.

Vice Chairman, Nigel took temporary charge from January to the end of March whilst my husband and I went on an extended holiday. As I handed the reins to Nigel he joked that with him in charge for three months I might not have a Society to return to. Little did we know how prophetic that joke would be!

Pat Corless
Chairman

OUR PROGRAMME.

- September heralded the start of the season through a detailed look at Frank Matcham's Masterpieces. Rated excellent and attended by 182 members and a record 26 visitors, this was received enthusiastically and acted as the introduction to our special study day of The Grand Theatre Blackpool later in the year.

- October was a highlight which saw the television presenter Lars Tharp take us through The Gates of Heroes on to the trail of Blue and White porcelain from China to Britain's stately homes. Rated Excellent and drew an audience of 191 members and 11 visitors, we celebrated the day in style with Cake and Fizz and congratulatory toast from the Chief Executive of The Arts Society, Florian Schweizer.



- November saw us into the Roaring Twenties and entertained us with the Art, Design and Fashion of that very special era. Despite some technical problems the 214 who attended, including 11 visitors still rated Joanne Banham Very Good.
- Our lead into Christmas was a well-researched and fascinating look at the way Jesus of Nazareth has been depicted in art throughout the centuries. Amina Wright did not disappoint the 160, and 5 visitors, who attended and rated her Excellent.

In January we had an excellent Study Day on the Grand Mediterranean Tour by Gillian Hovell aka the Muddy Archeologist.



- A superb lecture by Andrew Price in February on Jewelry from Downton to Gatsby was funny and entertaining especially viewing examples of the jewelry he made for the television programme Downton Abbey. The lecture attracted 24 visitors making a total of 202 who attended and rated the day Outstanding.

- March saw Brian Healey return to give a very moving lecture on Russian Art attended by 157 members and 8 visitors was rated Excellent - this proved to be the last lecture of the season.

By the time we came to March 2020 and the introduction of a national lockdown the role of the Committee rapidly



changed from planning and delivering lectures and events to cancelling activities of which more later.

OUR EVENTS, TRIPS AND HOLIDAYS.

- October 2019 was a special month for a select band of members who embarked on a cruise. 49 members from The Arts Societies of Fylde and Salmesbury flew to Athens and embarked on a nine night cruise aboard *Aegean Odyssey*. We visited some beautiful islands including Delos, Mykonos, Crete and Rhodes. We were able to celebrate the Golden Wedding anniversary of Rowland and Jo Darbyshire and new friendships were forged between both Societies. We were delayed on our return due to our flight being cancelled but we were accommodated overnight and all returned safely the following day.
- In November 2019 we marked the 125th Anniversary of The Grand Theatre in Blackpool with a fascinating look at the theatre's past and an update on the present, insights behind the scenes and all of this was set in context with a talk from the Chairman of the Friends of Morecambe Winter Gardens about the development of popular leisure in the North West.
- As a follow up from this a trip was planned to visit the Morecambe Winter Gardens in July 2020 to see the work that the Friends had done there in restoring the building to its former glory. The day was to include a visit by coach to the Judges' Chambers in Lancaster and lunch at Morecambe Golf Club. Although the coach was fully booked, in view of the pandemic, it was decided to postpone the trip until it was considered safe to continue.
- Christmas was marked with a well-attended traditional Christmas lunch held in the Fylde Rugby Club.
- Unfortunately other trips, researched but not yet publicised, also had to be put on hold for the foreseeable future.

Discover art's Rising Stars

As you may know, The Arts Society partners with the Royal Society of British Artists (RBA) to offer A-Level art students the opportunity to show their artworks in the RBA Star Students Exhibition in London. Supported by The Arts Society Fylde, two students from Rossall School, Fleetwood had entries accepted, one of which was a glazed, highly photo-realistic ceramic work entitled 'A Crate of Apples' by Charlie Fern. This was awarded the Exhibition's First Prize. Together with a superb pencil drawing entitled 'The Ancient Mariner' by Andy Zhao, both students were also invited to continue having their artworks displayed again in the Summer 2020 ROSL Exhibition.



'Apples in a crate';



'The Ancient Mariner';

Glazed ceramics
Charlie Fern, Rossall School, 16 yrs.

pencil drawing
Andy Zhao; Rossall School; 17 yrs.

We warmly congratulate Rossall School and both students for gaining two such prestigious Awards in 2020.

OUR ORGANISATION

Membership

There has been a small increase in the membership over the year and by the end of July we had 275 members.

Attendance at lectures has increased by 10% over the previous year, the average attendance is now 192 per lecture. The number of visitors increased by 50%, averaging 14 per lecture.

Membership Application forms and renewal forms are available on our website, we continue to provide paper versions for members on request. Electronic communication is promoted as our preferred method of communication and at the year end, approximately 90% of members have agreed to email updates.

Recruitment and retention of members continues to be of prime importance.

Communications

With all lectures and events being cancelled after March 2020, keeping in touch with our members became a priority. Thankfully, we were already familiar with using Mail chimp to send out emails to members, the majority of whom had provided us with email addresses and this proved to be a vital channel of communication during the months of lockdown.

The spring issue of our newsletter *In the Picture* was posted out to all members in April 2020 and the decision taken that future editions be circulated in an online format only. This paperless policy will allow us to save on costs in printing and postage at least in the short term.

Our thanks to Tony Depledge for creating the lecture leaflets, and to photographers Ged Curley and Tess Tackett for providing a visual record of many of our events.

The Committee

Once lockdown came about in March 2019 followed by months of limitations on our ability to meet and arrange events the role of the Committee and of the individual committee members changed significantly.

The cancellation of four lectures meant negotiating changed contracts with Speakers, a re-thinking of the activities and finances of the Society and keeping in contact with the Lowther Pavilion Theatre to keep abreast of the way in which they were changing to meet new stringent government requirements.

Our Secretary soon mastered Zoom so we could continue to have virtual meetings. The focus of the team was looking to see how we could keep the Society afloat and financially viable. Events were cancelled and money refunded and considerable effort was put into keeping all our members informed of the Society's position as matters unfolded. The remainder of the financial year was spent looking optimistically towards

the 2020/2021 season to ensure that we retained our members and kept up the levels of enthusiasm for The Arts Society Fylde.

Executive Committee members

Chair, Pat Corless; Vice Chair, Nigel Bramley-Haworth; Treasurer, Rowland Darbyshire; Secretary, Christina McHugh; Membership Secretary, John Driffill; Programme Secretary, Denise Malpas; Communications Officer, Pam Foster; Events Coordinator, Jean Holland.

October 2020

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
Period ended 31/7/20

	<u>Year to</u> <u>31/7/2020</u>	<u>Year to</u> <u>31/7/19</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions	14,066.00	13,737.00
Joining fees	160.00	280.00
Visitors fees	800.00	651.70
Study days and events	483.27	1,810.26
Bank interest	6.30	11.30
Other income		
Sale of equipment		40.00
NADFAS gift aid		116.00
Vouchers	16.00	
	<u>15,531.57</u>	<u>16,646.26</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Lecture fees and expenses	2,681.60	4,378.15
NADFAS charges	3,680.23	3,532.78
NADFAS AGM charges		131.43 *
Hire of meeting rooms	1,350.00	2,025.00
Website		90.90 *
Printing, stationery, postage	2,450.89	2,645.62
Committee members expenses		603.60 *
Members meeting	405.60	291.00
Credit card charges		75.69 *
Storage	629.88	355.36
Miscellaneous expenditure	1,556.00 **	642.67 *
Equipment		532.44 *
	<u>12,754.20</u>	<u>15,304.64</u>

surplus /deficits before awards and discretionary payments	2,777.37	1,341.62
Rebate to membership	<u>2,750.00</u>	
surplus/ deficit for the year	27.37	1,341.62
GENERAL FUND Brought Forward July 2019	15,165.63	13,824.01
GENERAL FUND Carried Forward July 2020	<u>15,193.00</u>	<u>15,165.63</u>

Expenditure on these items in 2019/20 are included in Miscellaneous expenditure*

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic four lectures were cancelled along with one trip.

This meant we lost opportunity to generate income .However, the Society has a strong balance in the General Account and a deposit of £10,000 in the Patricia Fay Fund.

Our reserves are in excess of 7.5 months' expenditure in line with The Arts Society recommendations.

GOOD CAUSES ACCOUNT

	<u>Year to 31/07/2020</u>	<u>Year to 31/07/2019</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Raffles (net)	761.38	1,195.62
Blackpool exhibition		300.00
Heritage Project		10.53
	<u>761.38</u>	<u>1,506.15</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Young Arts	65.00	698.66
Stitching together		88.55
Grand Theatre		1,000.00
Church recorders	56.00	
Lifeboat		300.00

Breaking Through		437.00
Ivories		25.00
	<u>121.00</u>	<u>2,549.21</u>
surplus/deficit for the year	640.38	-1043.06
Brought Forward July 2019	351.22	1,394.28
Carried Forward July 2020	<u>991.60</u>	<u>351.22</u>

The Good Causes income comes mainly from raffles at lectures, but in the absence of lectures in the second half of the Season, income was substantially depleted. We are open for business if anyone wishes to bring a worthy cause to our attention.

The Arts Society Fylde

Balance of funds at 31.07.20 is represented by:

General Account	£15,192.63
Good Causes Account	£991.60
Patricia Fay Fund	£10,000.00

The Accounts have been confirmed as a true record by Jeremy Stirrup, Independent Financial Adviser. Full Accounts are available from the Treasurer, Rowland Darbyshire, at rowland_darbyshire@yahoo.com



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The Arts Society Fylde. Supporting the Arts in Blackpool, Fylde and