



THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
FYLDE

# In the Picture

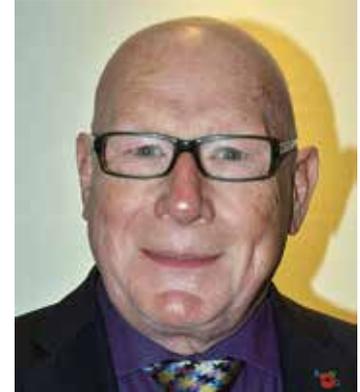
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*Newsletter #22 / Spring 2021*

# Letter from our Chair

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I was honoured to take over as Chair of The Arts Society Fylde at the Annual General Meeting held in November 2020. Although I have only been a member of the Society since late 2014 I have become greatly enthused with what has been achieved in the Fylde by our organisation. The quality of our Lectures has always been excellent and sometimes outstanding, and on a personal level I have learnt so much within the past six years and often on subjects that I didn't initially think would interest me.



I take over as Chair from some distinguished predecessors. When I joined the Society Marie Riley was the Chair. After she left the area I was fortunate to be on the Committee chaired by Jo Darbyshire, who was succeeded by Pat Corless, whom I served as Vice Chair. All of these ladies led our Society in their own way and I am most grateful to them all, especially to Jo and Pat who gave me so much encouragement and advice. Pat is going on to become the Area Chairman for the North West Group of Societies and I wish her every success in that new and demanding role.

Normally, this letter would include an outline of all our past activities since the publication of the last Newsletter. It will come as no surprise that on this occasion there is really very little to report. The outbreak of the Covid 19 virus has caused a massive disruption to all our lives since March 2020. The new normal is to stay indoors, avoid all social contact and keep safe. When life returns to normal is still difficult to gauge and, indeed, what will be the new normal? Hopefully, the vast majority of our members will now have received one of the vaccinations on offer and we can only hope that the immunity that these bring will allow us to meet up once again as soon as the Lowther Theatre reopens its doors to the general public.

But in all this gloom at least The Arts Society Fylde was able to hold three events at the Lowther before the latest lockdown took place. In September 2020 we held an introductory meeting to allow our members to see and experience what attending a Lecture would be like for the foreseeable future. At this point I must express my most sincere thanks to all the volunteers that the Friends of the Lowther provided to enable these meetings to take place. They welcomed us to the building, ensured we were all properly socially distanced and escorted our members to their allotted seats in the theatre, where they had to remain throughout the meeting. They even brought refreshments to those who requested them and also ensured that everyone left the building in an orderly manner. They did a wonderful job and to put this into context, it is only with their voluntary help that we were the only Arts Society in the North West to hold live Lectures in October and November last year.

In October our President, Hugh Ellwood, delivered an outstanding Lecture on Antonio Gaudi highlighting his extraordinary life and achievements. This was a lecture delivered with great enthusiasm and passion and it was clear that this is one of Hugh's favourite subjects. In November Ralph Hoyle travelled from Yorkshire to talk to us about English Rococo silver, bringing an elaborate teapot and stand from his own collection. This he described in great detail including its extensive provenance.

Lockdown then occurred once again and the Lowther was closed, so in December we held the first of our lectures by Zoom, direct from the home of Sian Walters. She gave an incisive Lecture on Raphael, his life and artistic achievements. This was a fascinating insight to a man who could have been so easily overshadowed by Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci.

In February another Zoom lecture brought James Butterwick onto our screens with a barnstorming Lecture on Fake Russian Avant Garde art. It was an exceptionally entertaining lecture on the emergence of fake Russian art of that genre, that has occurred since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the USSR. James has taken on some of the curators of exhibitions of work that he considered to contain many fake Avant Garde paintings from Russia and proved to be right, and in one case in a court of law.

For the future we can only hope that we can return to also enjoying the day trips, social events and holidays that we all enjoyed pre-lockdown. These have been an essential part of our Society and helped us to get to know each other better.

Finally, may I remind our members that it is only with the hard work and dedication of the Committee members that we have been able to achieve our success in the past. The future will require more people to come forward and offer their time and energies for the continuation of our Society. I would urge anyone reading this letter who has something to offer the future of The Arts Society Fylde to contact me. Without the continuation of voluntary support from our members to run our Society the future could look bleak. I do hope some of you can step forward and help.

I look forward to having the opportunity to meet you again in the very near future. Please be assured that once we return to the Lowther that it will be as safe as possible for you to attend the Lectures and to see friends once again. In the meantime please keep safe both within and outside your home.

Best wishes

*Nigel Bramley-Haworth*  
Chair, The Arts Society Fylde

# Dates for your diary

Please note that due to Coronavirus restrictions, we may have to make changes to our programme. See our website at [theartsocietyfylde.org.uk](http://theartsocietyfylde.org.uk) for the latest news on all upcoming lectures and events.

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WED 7TH APR 2021

## The Genius of Beethoven

*Peter Medhurst*

The lecture will explore Beethoven's genius as a writer of music against a backdrop of 19th century warfare, revolution and dramatic social changes.



WED 5TH MAY 2021

## Sown & Sewn: The Gardens of Restoration England

*Lucy Hughes-Hallett*

Will include paintings and plans of new gardens created during the late Stuart period, as well as the exuberantly colourful hangings, cushions and bed covers created by ladies of the 17th century.



WED 7TH JULY 2021

## Artists & Espionage: The Lawn Road Flats NW3: Modernist Living in Mid-20th Century London

*Deborah Lambert*

A radical residence to the likes of well known artists, sculptors and writers, the Lawn Road Flats also housed a nest of Soviet spies including the recruiter and controller of the Cambridge Five.



WED 2ND JUN 2021

## What Did The Egyptians Ever Do For Bolton

*Jaqueline Hyman*

Bolton's connection to Egypt dates back to the 1860s and today the Bolton Museum houses the most important and unique collection of Egyptian textile artefacts in the UK, each with a story to tell.

# Art helps to make unpaid carers more visible

*One of the aims of our society is to ensure that we are part of the fabric of the Fylde Coast community and a positive force for the wider benefit of arts at local level. We do this by networking, supporting the local voluntary and community sector, and involving ourselves in worthwhile community activities related to our aims and ethos.*

During the first lock-down, one of our members, Tony Tackett, liaised with the Blackpool Carers Centre in organising an exhibition of artworks by unpaid carers.

The Blackpool Carers Centre provides specialist support, respite and outings for unpaid carers from the age of five years and their families. Such carers provide care by looking after an ill, older or disabled family member, friend or partner, as well as loved ones experiencing mental ill health or substance misuse issues. This could amount to few hours a week or round the clock care.

Amongst its many support services, Blackpool Carers promotes an interest in arts and crafts pursuits. Most recently, carers were invited to submit a small artwork, of any description, defining the emotions and feelings of “being a carer”. These works were to have been displayed in an open exhibition but due to COVID-19 restrictions this hasn’t been possible. Instead, the exhibition has been made publicly available on our Society website.

Many unpaid carers feel they are invisible and The Arts Society Fylde was honoured to be able to make this exhibition available to the public and improve carer visibility. This is truly an exhibition of “art from the heart”.

The exhibition is still available to view at [bit.ly/blackpoolcarers](https://bit.ly/blackpoolcarers)



*My Happy Place – Lake District (Ambleside) where I go to escape.  
Created by Adult Carer*



Lonley. Created by Aston, H, Young Carer, aged 11



Family Confusing. Created by Maisie, Young Carer, aged 9



Patient. Created by Claire Law, Adult Carers' Respite Co-ordinator



## Artworks invited for Lowther calendar

The Lowther has invited The Arts Society Fylde to help run an art competition for its 2022 calendar. Entries should show the natural beauty of Lowther Gardens, its flora and fauna, and should represent the months of the year with one extra non-specific entry for the front cover. Entries may be in any artistic medium - painted, drawn or collage.

All ages are encouraged to enter; there will be a specific category for young people under the age of 16.

A public exhibition of submitted art work is planned for the late autumn at the Lowther Pavilion theatre where the final choices will be made. The public will be able to vote on the picture that will make up the front cover.

Each entry will receive a free calendar once they are printed and the final 13 chosen will be invited to a gala presentation evening where they will receive framed copies of their originals.

The Competition is open now, with a closing date in August 2021.



## Members enjoy a coffee together

*Now that many of our members are confident about using Zoom for watching lectures at home, we decided it was the right time to offer a more sociable Zoom event in the form of a virtual coffee morning.*

Held at the beginning of March, it was a great success with 27 members joining in and eager to see and talk to other members, many of whom they hadn't seen for months. After an initial introduction participants were divided into small groups of six, where we discussed that week's lecture, and shared news and gossip. We then all got back together and reported what we had discussed to the others.

This was very much a trial event but it worked well, with members saying they definitely wanted more. It offered a fun way to come together and chat with old friends, as well as with newer members, many of whom we haven't been able to interact with personally this season.

One member joined by phone, an option that also enables those members without Internet access to listen to any of the Zoom lectures. The member who tried out the March lecture by phone said that she really enjoyed it and that it was "as clear as a bell".

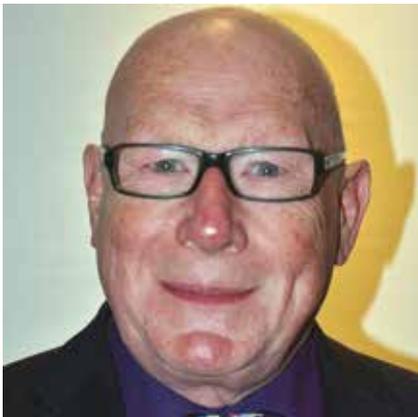
We plan to hold more virtual events like this; please let us know if you have any ideas for further Zoom get togethers.

# Welcome to our new Chair

*Despite the lockdowns and other restrictions that dogged last autumn, there was a window of opportunity to hold our Annual General Meeting before the lecture on Wednesday 4 November 2020, enabling members to attend in person or via Zoom.*

We welcomed our new Chair, Nigel Bramley-Haworth and Jean Holland as Vice Chair; the other Committee members remained in their previous roles. Unfortunately, our very able Secretary, Christina McHugh, retired and the position still hasn't been filled. We are looking for a Minutes Secretary to help out. If you think this might be something you're interested in then please do get in touch - you will be provided with lots of assistance and support. As our Chair Nigel Bramley-Haworth points out in his *Letter from the Chair* our future of our Society depends on the continuation of voluntary support from our members.

We are currently holding our monthly Committee meetings via Zoom but hope to be meeting in person at Lytham Hall again as soon as restrictions are lifted and it is safe to do so.



**Chair:**  
*Nigel Bramley-Haworth*



**Vice Chair & Events Co-ordinator:**  
*Jean Holland*



**Hon. Treasurer:**  
*Rowland Darbyshire*



**Programme Secretary:**  
*Denise Malpas*



**Membership Secretary:**  
*John Drifill*



**Communications**  
*Pam Foster*



# Donations and grants help sustain our local theatres

*The theatre industry across the UK has been severely impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic, so how are our local theatres faring?*

Thanks to a generous donation from the Windmill Community Benefit Society the Lowther Pavilion has been able to deliver its work into the community by developing a package that provides weekly shows for local care homes, education in and out of the classroom, and live entertainment for those who cannot visit the theatre (through choice or needing to isolate).

The Lowther has already started the project that will see free weekly shows for 14 weeks, available for care homes throughout the region, with a retrospective on George Formby performed live on stage, various songs from the shows, a production about Joyce Grenfell and a Jazz Quartet. It has also been working with schools in preparing adaptations of books for children for International Book week, which took place in March. Added to these it also launched a series of lectures and practical workshops for amateur theatre enthusiasts.

And when theatres are finally allowed to open fully to the public, the Lowther says it will be able to live stream most shows that are on its stage.

There's good news about the Blackpool Grand Theatre too. The Grand was successful in its application for £483,666 to the Government's COVID-19 Recovery Grant Scheme. The grant, which aims to support the theatre whilst it is unable to open with consistently financially viable productions, means that the theatre was able to keep a small staff team in place to look after the building and its business through until the end of March. It was also used to underwrite the cost of unavoidable job losses, preparations to re-open with Covid-secure provisions in place, and help rebuild the theatre's reserves, ready to be able to return to full operation when this is possible.

If all goes well this spring, theatres in England will be allowed to open from 17 May. Both The Lowther and The Grand are offering a full programme of events from May until the end of the year.

# House in a Box

By Allan Foster

(This visit took place in September 2020 in line with Scottish Covid regulations)



Charles Rennie Mackintosh is known worldwide as a much loved architect, designer, water colourist and artist, who had a profound effect on the Art Nouveau and Secessionist movements from the late 1890s until his death in 1928. Charles and his wife Margaret Macdonald were a powerful artistic and design presence in their native Glasgow but their influence spread far beyond the city.

Charles joined the architectural practice of Honeyman & Keppie and his first major architectural project was the Glasgow Herald Building (now known as The Lighthouse), in 1899. He was particularly influenced by Japanese design, attracted by its sparseness and economy of means rather than ostentatious accumulation. At the same time, Charles was a pioneer of the European 'Modernist' Art Nouveau philosophy concerned with creating functional and practical design.

Hill House in Helensburgh, 30 miles from Glasgow, is one of Charles and Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh's most famous works, probably second only to the (now destroyed) Glasgow School of Art. The house is a prominent example of the British Art Nouveau. It was designed and built for the wealthy publisher Walter Blackie in 1902–1904.

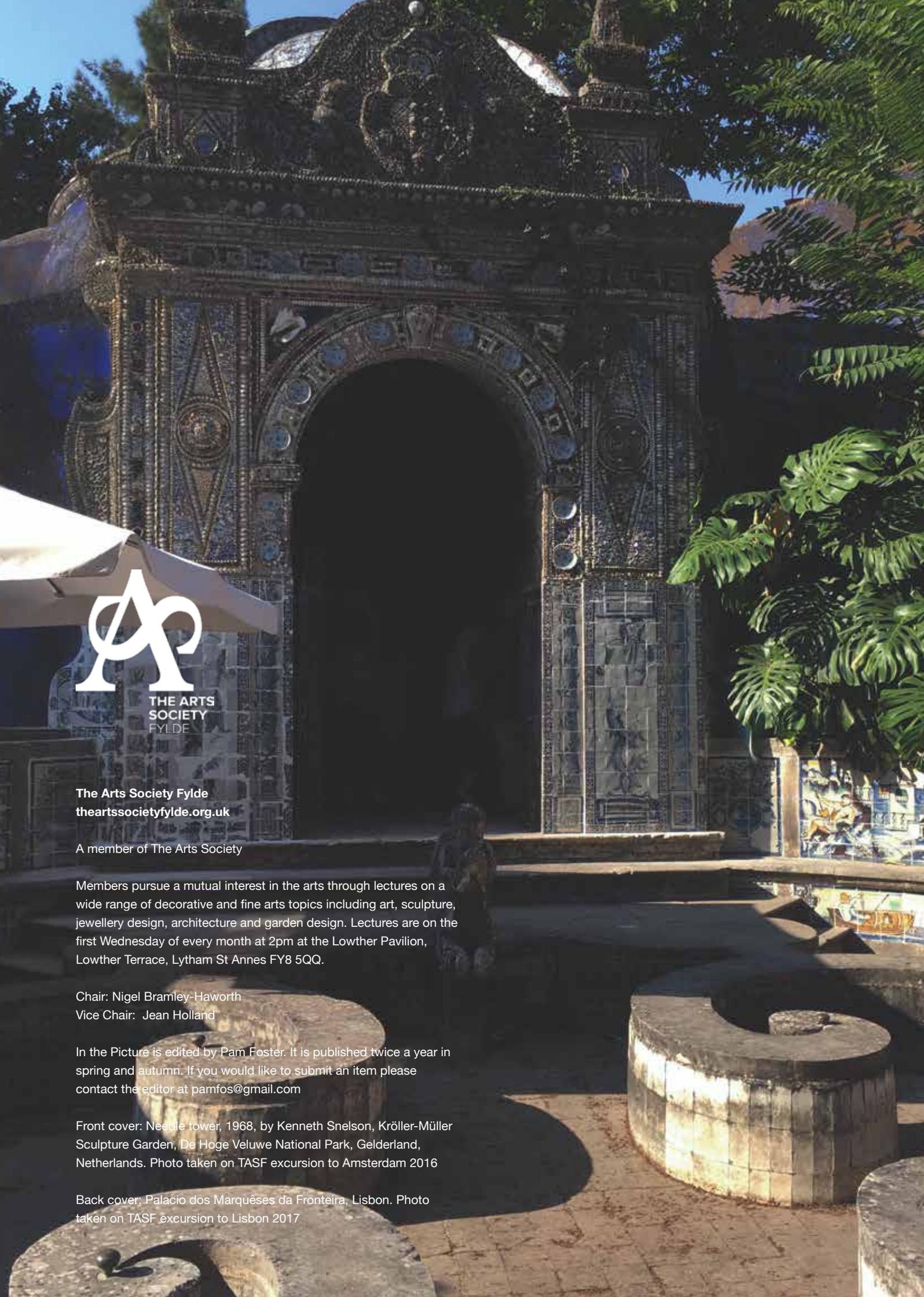
In addition to the house, Mackintosh designed most of the interior, furniture and fittings. Mackintosh's attention to detail extended to prescribing the colour of cut flowers that the Blackies might place on a table in the living room.



Charles's innovative approach to this commission included the use of a then new exterior finish, Portland cement. Whilst providing the sought after look initially, it soon became porous and the walls became increasingly damp. Hill House was gifted to the National Trust for Scotland and by 2017 it was decided to save the building by encasing it in a fine wire mesh which prevents some 70% of the rain water making an incursion. Letting the house slowly dry out is going a long way to its salvation. The project cost some £3 million to create the so called 'House in a Box'.

As part of the project, high level walkways were constructed allowing visitors to climb above the House and have an incredible overhead view of its structure. This has proved so popular in attracting large numbers of visitors that the box may remain as a long-term feature.

With the beauty of the interiors of the House also of great interest, visiting Hill House with its superb views over the Firth of Clyde, is worth anyone's time.



**THE ARTS  
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FYLDE**

**The Arts Society Fylde**  
[theartssocietyfylde.org.uk](http://theartssocietyfylde.org.uk)

A member of The Arts Society

Members pursue a mutual interest in the arts through lectures on a wide range of decorative and fine arts topics including art, sculpture, jewellery design, architecture and garden design. Lectures are on the first Wednesday of every month at 2pm at the Lowther Pavilion, Lowther Terrace, Lytham St Annes FY8 5QQ.

Chair: Nigel Bramley-Haworth  
Vice Chair: Jean Holland

In the Picture is edited by Pam Foster. It is published twice a year in spring and autumn. If you would like to submit an item please contact the editor at [pamfos@gmail.com](mailto:pamfos@gmail.com)

Front cover: Needle tower, 1968, by Kenneth Snelson, Kröller-Müller Sculpture Garden, De Hoge Veluwe National Park, Gelderland, Netherlands. Photo taken on TASF excursion to Amsterdam 2016

Back cover: Palacio dos Marquêses da Fronteira, Lisbon. Photo taken on TASF excursion to Lisbon 2017