



THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
FYLDE

# Annual Report

---

2020 – 2021

# Introduction

It is my pleasure to present my first introduction to the Annual Report since I became Chairman of the Arts Society Fylde in November 2020.

At the last AGM we said our goodbyes to Chair Pat Corless, who has subsequently taken on the role of North West Area Chairman for which we wish her every success, and also to our retiring Secretary Christina McHugh. Our Events Co-ordinator Jean Holland stepped up as Vice Chair, while continuing with her role as Events Co-ordinator. We were without a secretary for several months until we managed to co-opt Christine Marshall to take on the role of Minuting Secretary. Then in June we lost the services of our Membership Secretary John Driffill. We were able to co-opt Lesley Peabody Brewer to fill that vacancy. My thanks to John for all his innovative hard work, and a very warm welcome to Christine and Lesley to the Executive Committee.

I wish to express my most grateful thanks to all the members of your Executive Committee and to Tony Depledge for his commitment and the indefatigable energy he gave to the task of Zooming our lectures. My sincere thanks to Hugh Ellwood, our President, for his support during the last year. My thanks to our Volunteers who stepped in to help when we returned to the theatre. They have given their time and energies to helping to keep our Society going throughout lockdown, but, as always, the future continuing success of the Arts Society Fylde is our most important priority and we look forward to working with you to achieve this fundamental aim.

*Nigel G Bramley-Haworth*  
Chairman, The Arts Society Fylde

## Our Programme

Well it's been another rollercoaster of a season! It began with a welcome return to the Lowther after Lockdown in October when our President and Arts Society Accredited Lecturer, Hugh Ellwood, transported us to Spain with an 'outstanding' lecture on Gaudi's architecture. This was followed in November by Ralph Hoyle's interesting lecture on 18th century English Rococo Silver - illustrated with examples from his own collection.

By December restrictions were once more in place; we were unable to continue live lectures at the Lowther and had to switch to Zoom. Fortunately, our lecturers were well prepared and very familiar with the technology. Sian Walters' engaging presentational style came across well on the small screen and we enjoyed a detailed analysis of the life and work of the Italian Renaissance artist, Raphael. We continued on Zoom in February, March, April and May with some further lectures. James Butterwick gave us a fascinating insight into the way in which fake Russian paintings had found their way onto the art market in the early years of the 21st century and Neil Faulkner developed a critical appraisal of David Lean's cinema, drawing on his own original research. These two presentations were followed by an entertaining lecture/recital, focussing on the music of Beethoven from Peter Medhurst's London studio - and by Lucy Hughes-Hallett's lecture on restoration gardens and needlework.

By the summer we were able to return to the Lowther for our final lectures of the season. In June we enjoyed a return visit from Jacqueline Hyman who presented an 'excellent' lecture, giving an insight into her work at the Bolton Museum where she specialises in researching and preserving their collection of fabric samples excavated from Ancient Egyptian tombs in the late 19th and early 20th century. The season was rounded off in July with another 'excellent' lecture from Deborah Lambert which focused on the Lawn Road flats in London - its modernist architecture and famous (sometimes infamous) inhabitants.

Understandably, given the circumstances, numbers attending the four live lectures at the Lowther were much lower than we would normally expect. Fortunately, we were able to Zoom these lectures from the theatre in order to give as many members as possible access to them. On average about a third of the membership accessed the lectures either by coming to the Lowther or by watching them on Zoom. As the new season gets underway we are hoping that members will feel increasingly confident to come to the theatre. We are enormously grateful to the Friends of the Lowther for their hard work and support in ensuring as safe an environment as possible for our members.

*Denise Malpas*  
Programme Secretary

## **Events, Trips and Holidays**

Despite having to cancel all trips, holidays and events, booked or in the planning stages, the Society has managed to keep the members in touch via Zoom.

After each Zoomed lecture the members met at a virtual coffee morning to enjoy a chat before dispersing into random groups of six to discuss the lecture. The overall opinion of the lecture was discovered in a general chat at the end.

Looking forward to our 21/22 Season and the pandemic being more under control, we hope to reinstate some of the events that were booked last year (and cancelled), and plan new visits and social occasions for our members including our ever popular Christmas lunch.

*Jean Holland*  
Events Co-ordinator

# Our Organisation

## Membership

The Arts Society Membership has understandably been hit by the Covid pandemic, and membership renewals were down as we started the 20/21 Season last September. However, renewals for the 21/22 Season look promising, with members re-joining the Society and several new members joining; the Society looks to continue on this path and is hopeful to grow the membership back to pre-pandemic levels.

During the Lockdown the Society continued to offer members interesting and varied lectures, two In The Picture newsletters, as well as printed copies of the quarterly magazine from The Arts Society. It is anticipated that we will be able to offer members trips out as well as study days in our 21/22 Season.

Finally, I would like to thank John Driffill for taking the time to show me the ropes on relinquishing his role as Membership Secretary.

*Lesley Peabody Brewer*  
Membership Secretary

## Communications

Members of any society need to feel a sense of belonging and community. Continuing Lockdowns and a nervousness, by some, about attending events, when restrictions were partially lifted, has highlighted just how important it is to communicate with our members to ensure they still feel part of The Arts Society Fylde community. Our regular Mailchimp emails have been very much part of this strategy, not only in keeping members informed but also to instil a sense of belonging. Zoom has been an important tool for all our communications, not only for lectures but also for committee meetings and virtual coffee mornings. In order to help with our planning, we also employed free survey software to ask members if they wanted Zoom, as well as live lectures, to continue for the 2021-2022 season.

For the handful of members who haven't provided an email address and couldn't access any of the Zoom lectures, we sent letters by post advising on how to listen to the lecture via a landline phone.

Once again we have limited our paper-based communications this year, replacing them with electronic versions. Not only does this minimise any dangers of cross infection but it also helps reduce costs and paper wastage. We have continued to replace our lecture notes leaflets with online versions, all of which are archived on our web site. The spring 2021 newsletter, In the Picture, was also made available in an electronic format only and is also available, together with a complete archive of our newsletters, on the web site.

Our thanks to Tony Depledge for creating the lecture notes leaflets and also to those members who have submitted items for this year's two newsletters. Thanks too to Fiona Walmsley Collins for her help in maintaining our archive.

*Pam Foster*

Communications Officer

## The Executive Committee

Chair	Nigel Bramley-Haworth
Vice-Chair	Jean Holland
Treasurer	Rowland Darbyshire
Minutes Secretary	Christine Marshall
Membership Secretary	Lesley Peabody Brewer
Programme Secretary	Denise Malpas
Communications Officer	Pam Foster
Events Co-ordinator	Jean Holland



*Front cover programme card 2020/2021*

# General Account

## Receipts

Subscriptions			£10,547.00
Joining Fees			£45.00
Visitors Fees			£19.00
Raffles			-
Community Projects			-
Gift Aid			-
Events			£266.00
	Judges Lodgings	(£34.00)	
	Xmas 2020	£300.00	
Interest			1.00
Vouchers			-
Miscellaneous			9.00
Grants			1.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>			<b>£10,888.00</b>

## Less : Payments

Lecturers Fees			£2,815.00
Lecturers Expenses			£172.00
The Arts Society Affiliation Fee			£3,339.00
Insurance			-
Hire of Meeting Room			£900.00
Refreshments			-
Raffles			-
Community Projects			-
Website			£411.00
Printing, Stationery etc			£918.00-
Committee Expenses			£104.00
Miscellaneous			£147.00
Storage			£629.00
Bank Charges			£6.00
iZettle			-
Expenses reclaimable			-
Equipment			-
New Members Meeting			-
<b>Total Payments</b>			<b>£9,441.00</b>
<b>Net Receipts less payments</b>			<b>£1,447.00</b>

## Good Cause Account

Receipts	£0
Less : Payments	£0
<b>Net Receipts less Payments</b>	<b>£0</b>

## Reconciliation

Opening Cash Balance	
General Account	£7,298.00
Inc Good Causes Account	-
PFMF	£10,000.00
Deposit Account	£7,950.00
	£25,248.00
Add/Less	
Net Receipts less payments (General Account)	£1,447.00
Net Receipts less payments (Charity Account)	-
	£1,447.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£26,695.00</b>

## Represented by

General Account	£7,751.00
Good Causes Account	£992.00
PFMF	£10,000.00
Deposit Account	£7,952.00
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>£26,695.00</b>

## Report of the independent examiner

I confirm that I have examined the accounting records of The Arts Society Fylde for the financial year ended 31 July 2021 and that the Receipts and Payments account is in agreement therewith.

*Jeremy Stirrup*

20/09/20



THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
FYLDE

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

A member of The Arts Society

Front cover: Winter Sunrise by Jean Holland, The Arts Society Fylde  
Back cover: Incoming Tide By Jean Holland, The Arts Society Fylde