

FYLDE DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY.

Notice to Members on Wednesday 6th July 2016 and thereafter on Website

Members will recall that in October 2015 the Committee issued the document '2020 Looking forward to our Future' in which we shared with you our ideas, hopes and some dreams for our Society in 2020 and beyond. Some items were held for further action others were included in our AGM in February 2016.

Para 6 is concerned with governance, accountability and succession. It has been occupying the Committee with the objective of widening out the organisation to make it easier for Members to be more involved by dipping in and out of tasks without the obligations of a full Committee role. A wonderful example is our 'Tagging the Treasures Project' where a core group kept it going, but the many volunteers made it happen.

The Committee is well aware that NADAS itself is trying to modernise and many of you will know that our first Chairman Hilary Alcock is now a National Trustee. NADFAS is working on a restructuring plan for societies and Hilary has suggested that we should be a Pilot, keeping a diary and reporting our progress and our problems as we go along.

The Committee has agreed to participate in the Pilot and restructure itself using a model currently being formulated and under discussion amongst the NADFAS National Working Group but which is customised to Fylde DFAS. The Working Group consisted of Trustees, Area Chairs and trainers at NADFAS House and the model, which proposed a different structure of management, was based on research involving a number of societies. The model has not yet been trialled and FDFAS would be developing and pioneering something different that may become the accepted way for societies to deliver the NADFAS 'programme' in the future.

The model proposes an organisational structure of governance/strategic planning and operational management and allows more flexibility.

1. Structure customised to FDFAS.

[a] Executive Committee to be known as the Executive would be responsible for governance and strategic planning.

Chair*

Vice Chair*

Secretary*

Treasurer*

Membership Secretary---member

Programme Secretary ---member and Programme Team Leader ** [* Officers]

Officers and Members of the Executive would be elected annually at the AGM with a tenure not normally exceeding 3 years as per the current constitution.

[b] Teams which to begin with, will come from the present committee will be responsible for operational management and future planning of the areas within their remit.

Each will be led by a Team Leader and there will be five Teams: [see diagram]

- Programme: including lectures, SIDs, visits, tours ** Because the programme is so important to NADFAS the TL for programme will be a member of the Executive.
- Events: including recruitment, celebrations, volunteers' & new members' events, DFAS at Night, organisation of monthly lectures with volunteer engagement
- Volunteering Projects: Young Arts
- Volunteering Projects: Heritage & Church Recording/Trails
- Communication: including marketing & publicity, newsletter, press releases, web site, displays, photography

2. Organisation of Teams

[a] The team based approach has flexibility with less rigidity, and probably fewer demands, than committee membership entails. The teams are going to be self-selecting and may include previous committee members who are experienced and want to be involved again, but play a less exacting part. In this way their valuable experience is not lost to the Society. It would be collaborative and more sociable with smaller numbers involved. Each team to select annually a Team Leader to manage its operation. It is expected that normally a Team Leader would be in such a role for a maximum of 5 years.

[b] There would be some overlap of activities, but a sharing of tasks could be agreed amongst the members.

[c] Members of the Executive could not be Team Leaders and Officers could not be members of any Team although would help and support specific activities.

[d] Team Leaders would be expected to report to the Executive via e-mail or by telephone if the business was factual and brief or to inform them that their Team had no business to report. Such reports should include plans for the immediate future, vision & budget implications. Team Leaders would be invited to attend a meeting of the Executive at least annually.

NADFAS Company Secretary, Graeme East, had discussed the Pilot with HA and advised, that because of the 'trial' nature there is no need to amend the Constitution & Rules at this stage. However this may be necessary in the future. Hilary thinks we could evaluate the Pilot in 18 months... we think it should be 2 years.

The Committee has agreed to implement the new organisational structure in October 2016 or September if we can get the work done and this will allow for a limited amount of evaluation before the AGM in February 2017.

I would like to thank Hilary for all her help and support, not the least of which was travelling down to meet us on a very rainy Sunday afternoon and also to thank my fellow Committee Members for their help and support, some of whom will be standing down to accommodate the new arrangements.

We all hope that you will enjoy what we hope will be an even more enjoyable and interesting Fylde DFAS experience

Jo Darbyshire

July 2016