

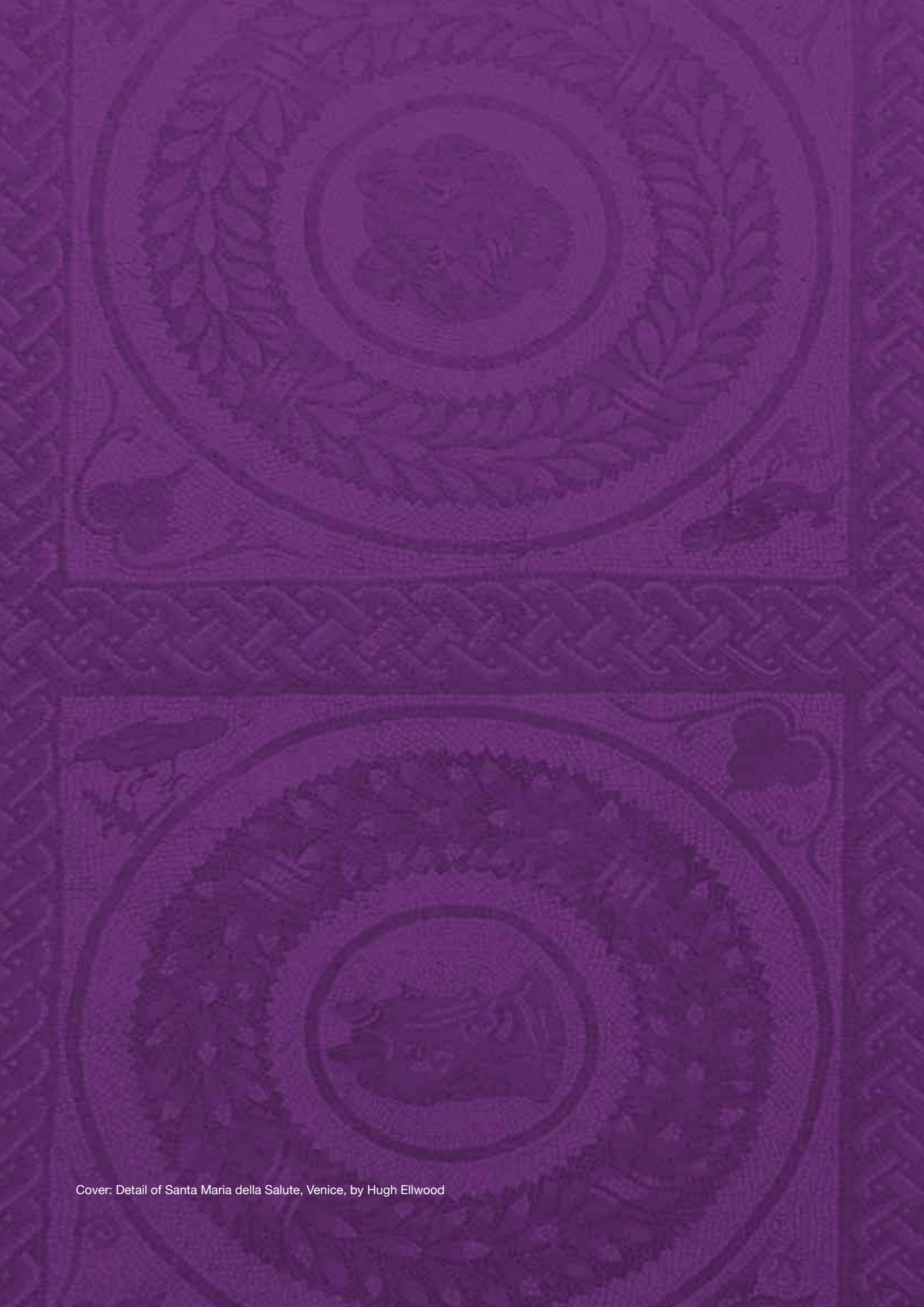


THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
FYLDE

# Annual Report

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2018 – 2019



Cover: Detail of Santa Maria della Salute, Venice, by Hugh Ellwood

# Introduction

The 2018–2019 Season started at our new venue – The Lowther Pavilion in Lytham – and what a successful move this has proved to be; our membership has increased and the number of visitors attending lectures almost doubled. The November and April lectures were particularly well attended, numbering 207 and 196 respectively. It is not only our new venue that attracted an increase in the membership, our stimulating and varied lectures and study days, and exciting visits and tours drew in new members.

I am happy to have this opportunity to thank my Committee for giving so generously of their time and energy as we move forward into our 10th Anniversary year with a real enthusiasm for the continued success of The Arts Society Fylde.

*Pat Corless*

Chair, The Arts Society Fylde

## Our Programme

We are delighted to report that we have had a wonderful response to the 2018–19 Lecture Season. We also introduced a simpler system of assessment for our lectures by Members. It appears to be working very well and Members awarded three ‘Outstanding’ scores, six ‘Excellent’ and one ‘Very Good.’ These are in turn reported to The Arts Society who give feedback to the lecturers.

### Outstanding Lectures:

September: Leslie Primo – *Signs, Symbols & Iconography*.

December: Brian Healey – *When Cotton was King. The Architectural Breadth of 19Th Century Manchester*.

July: Ian Swankie – *The World’s most Expensive Art*.

### Study Days:

March: Brian Healey – *Building of Manchester’s Town Hall; & Boom, Bust & Baroque, A continuation of the story of Manchester 1800 – 1920s*

June: Mark Hill – *Czech Glass – Undressing Antiques; & Legends of Czech Glass*

Both Study Day lecturers were faultless in their presentations; their slides were excellent and their humour appreciated – many members attended these stimulating full day events and rated both ‘Outstanding’.

## Visits

Lesley Peabody Brewer & Dr Ruth Holden organised a very successful Christmas outing to The Howarth Art Gallery and Hoghton Tower.

## Tours

There were two tours for members this season, an autumn holiday to Dresden and a three day spring visit to Birmingham. You can read a full report of the Dresden tour in the March 2019 Newsletter, *Dresden – a ‘Jewel Box’ of delights*. The second tour explored the art and history of Birmingham; it included a visit to Aston Hall on the way and a visit to Wightwick Manor on the return journey. The group enjoyed a packed itinerary and a most enjoyable short break.

## Events

Christmas Lunch: The Christmas lunch is always hugely popular and this year it was carefully orchestrated to follow on from the December lecture. This was quite a challenge but our volunteers ensured a smooth transition and the Rugby club supplied a splendid lunch. A convivial occasion for all 120 who attended.

Evening Lecture and Supper: Hilary Alcock, a former Chair of the Society, offered her services to deliver a lecture as a fund raising event in April. We incorporated this with a Scottish inspired buffet, followed by Hilary's talk on the Kirkcudbright artists, which over 70 members and guests attended.

Volunteers Afternoon Tea at the Lytham Cricket Club: This was held after the June lecture, when approximately 30 Volunteers enjoyed tea and scones. The Chair expressed warm thanks to the Volunteers for their invaluable help during the Season in assisting at lectures, study days and events. Rita Calvert deserves special mention for coordinating volunteers throughout the season to ensure all events run smoothly and with great style.

# Volunteering Projects

## Heritage

During this year we funded the cleaning and restoration of 10 unique ivories from the Lytham St Annes Art Collection. Jacqueline Love, our Team Leader for Heritage, wrote about the project in the March Newsletter. Jacqueline was inspirational in the completion of the Church Record for the Fairhaven United Reformed Church (The White Church) last year, and has followed this up with a Children's Church Trail, which she researched and designed. It was launched during the Heritage Open Days in September 2019.

Heritage Lecture, 18th March at the Bedford Hotel. Fiona Walmsley-Collins gave an interesting talk on *The History of Embroidery*. She had collated a fascinating display of old embroidery, magazines and books, and a couple of examples of her own embroidery work. After the talk there was a hands-on workshop hosted by the ladies of the Lytham St Annes Embroiders' Guild.

## Young Arts

A-level art work from schools and colleges across the Fylde was entered for this National Art Competition in association with The Arts Society and the Royal Society of British Artists. Our thanks to Kate Cartmell for selecting and sending forward our entries.

Four of our Fylde students gained the award; two with ceramics, one with a painting and one with a decorative textile. TASF awarded each winner with £50 for travel expenses to see their work exhibited at the Mall Gallery in London.

We continue to provide art materials for the Children's Outpatients Department at Victoria Hospital and Brian House (the children's part of Trinity Hospice). The art materials are gratefully accepted by the hospital staff, who assure us of the benefits to their young patients. Two new volunteers, Tess Tackett and Caroline Bowker, have come forward to help Muriel Wardman and Sally Banister who have undertaken this work for some years.

## Breaking Through – Unknown and Unseen

This innovative exhibition, organised and curated by Tony Tackett, ran for three weeks in November 2018 at the Solaris Centre, and a report on the exhibition and how it evolved is in the March 2019 Newsletter. This exceptional exhibition received mention in The Art Society Magazine, Spring 2019.

# Our Organisation

## Membership

We have seen a considerable growth in membership during the last year. This has been driven by our move to the Lowther Pavilion where we can accommodate a larger audience for our lectures.

Welcome lunches for new members were held before our October 2018 and April 2019 lectures. These lunch-time meetings were well attended and provided an opportunity for new members to meet each other, get to know the Committee and learn more about how the Society operates.

Attendance at lectures over the past year has averaged 174 members (64% of membership) and nine visitors. Our November lecture attracted a particularly large audience (190 members and 17 visitors). Overall, there were 1,737 attendances at lectures and 92 visitors in the period September 2018 to July 2019.

Existing members continue to renew their membership year-on-year and while the majority of our members are based in the Lytham St Annes area we continue to attract members from across the Fylde and the Ribble Valley. The Committee is always keen to involve members in the work of the Society and new members are encouraged to make their skills, interests and talents known to us.

Membership Application Forms and Renewal Forms are available on our website but we continue to provide paper versions for members' convenience. Over the past year the Executive Committee has carefully considered the Society's obligations under the new Data Protection Act and has refined our data protection procedures to ensure maximum safeguarding of Members' privacy.

Recruitment and retention of members continues to be of paramount importance. We look forward to welcoming new members from across the Fylde and beyond and to working with all members to ensure the continuing success of the Society.

## Communication

We aim to plan, develop and deliver a variety of internal and external communications for our members, and over the last 10 years we have used and experimented with different applications to help streamline our communications. We have seen a few changes over the last decade: our website is now in its third edition; the newsletter is designed by a professional rather than a volunteer; email usage has increased as more members have provided addresses; social media usage has increased; and we are seeing a slow but gradual move to electronic rather than paper media.

Moving to the Lowther Pavilion has meant that we are no longer reliant on volunteers to set up the audio-visual equipment, rather we can leave it to the Lowther's professional technicians. However, we are still reliant on volunteers to set up equipment for Study Days and the like, which are held at other venues. Thanks goes to Tony Depledge and Allan Foster for ensuring the smooth running of such events.

Earlier this year, we put out a request for members to look through their files to see if they had any of the documents we had identified as missing from our Archive. Our thanks to those members who brought in not only some of these missing items but also some material we were not aware of. The archive is now complete and is housed in our storage unit. Fiona Walmsley-Collins has now retired from her position as Archivist. Our thanks to her for her hard work over the last two years.

We continue to use free but safe services for storing electronic material and communicating with our members. The email marketing service Mailchimp enables us not only to send out newsy emails, but its sophisticated analytics software also reports on how many and which members have opened them. All our photographs were previously stored on Flickr, but we no longer subscribe to the service and took the opportunity to rationalise the collection. All these photos are now on our website. We are very grateful to our photographers for providing a photographic record of most of our events, and would like to thank Ged Curley, Tess Tackett and Jacqueline Love.

Based on member feedback we have made one or two minor design tweaks to our website and we would like to thank Simon Foster for his help, not only with the site but also for his skills in designing our newsletter layout.

We will continue to look for new ways in which we can better communicate with our members and local communities.

## **Our Society**

This has been a momentous year for the Society – we changed venue and reached our 10th anniversary. The year has been a resounding success and your hard working Committee are confident our members will enjoy the stimulating programme we have planned for our 2019 – 2020 Season.

## **Executive Committee Members**

<b>Chair</b>	Pat Corless
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Nigel Bramley-Haworth
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Christina McHugh
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Jean Holland
<b>Communications</b>	Pam Foster
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Denise Malpas
<b>Programme Secretary</b>	Pauline Hamilton
<b>Co-opted Member</b>	Rowland Darbyshire

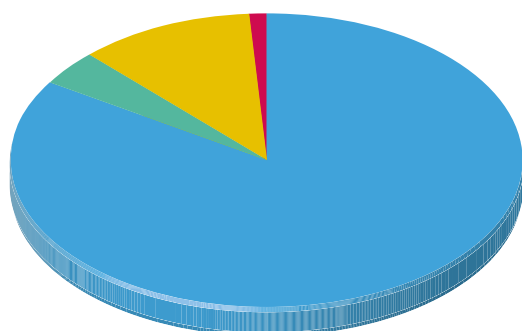
The Annual Report is edited by Christina McHugh, Secretary

# General Account

The General Account showed a surplus this year of £1341.62 as against a deficit last year of £541.43. This is due to increased Membership, joining fees, visitors and events. Net Expenditure was similar to the previous year with the increased hire of meeting rooms being cancelled out by the decrease in printing costs, and we were able to purchase some new equipment for our outside lectures.

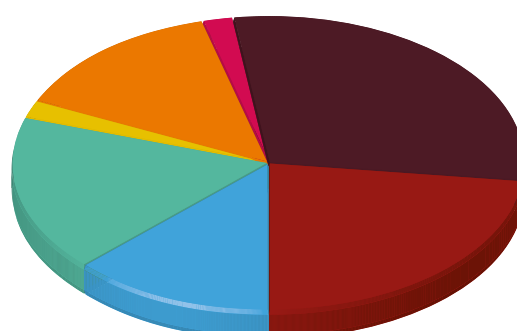
Income	Year to 31/07/2019	Year to 31/07/2018
Subscriptions	£14,017.00	£12,519.00
Visitors Fees	£651.70	£376.00
Study Days and Events	£1,810.26	£1,532.60
Other income	£167.30	£329.41
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£16,646.26</b>	<b>£14,757.01</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Lecture Fees and expenses	£4,378.15	£4,318.93
NADFAS charges	£3,532.78	£3,339.07
Hire of meeting rooms	£2,025.00	£1,569.99
Printing, Stationery & Postage	£2,645.62	£3,281.34
Storage	£355.36	£599.97
Other expenses	£2,076.73	£982.95
Members Meetings	£291.00	£1,116.19
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£15,304.64</b>	<b>£15,208.44</b>
Surplus/(deficit)	£1,341.62	-£451.43
General Fund at beginning of year	£13,824.01	£14,357.44
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>£15,165.63</b>	<b>£13,906.01</b>

Income



■ Subscriptions (84%)      ■ Visitors fees (4%)  
 ■ Study days & events (11%)      ■ Other income (1%)

Expenditure



■ Hire of meeting rooms (13%)      ■ Printing, stationary & postage (17%)  
 ■ Storage (2%)      ■ Other expenses (14%)  
 ■ Members meetings (2%)      ■ Lecture fees & expenses (29%)  
 ■ NADFAS charges (23%)

Our Reserves are in excess of the 7.5 months of Expenditure in line with The Arts Society so on that basis we have loaned £10,000 to the Patricia Faye Fund which is now earning interest for The Arts Society.



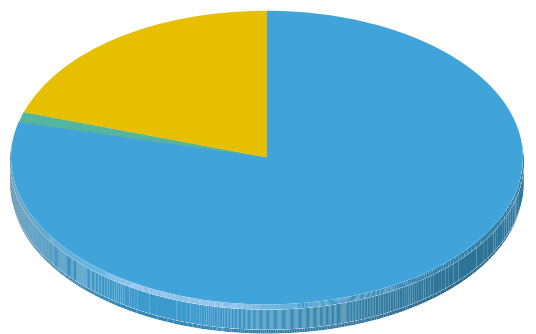
# Good Causes Account

Once again our raffles have been generously supported with income similar to last year. We have been able to donate £1000 to the Grand Theatre to assist with refurbishment. Our only ongoing Heritage project is currently 'Stitching Together' for which a grant is being sought.

Our expenditure on Young Arts includes the refilling of the children's hospital trolleys at a cost of £398.

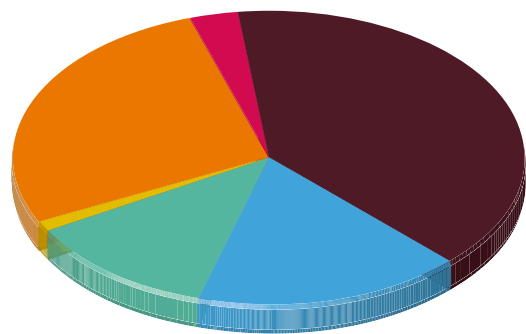
Income	Year to 31/07/2019	Year to 31/07/2018
Net raffles	£1,195.62	£1,242.34
Grants	-	£425.00
Stitching Together	£10.53	-
Blackpool Exhibition	£300.00	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£1,506.15</b>	<b>£1,667.34</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Young Arts	£698.66	£1074.8
Heritage Project	£88.55	£501.96
Church Recorders Group	-	£276.74
The Grand Theatre	£1,000.00	
Blackpool Exhibition	£437.00	
Ivories	-	£1000.00
RNLI Project	£300.00	
Donation	£25.00	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£2,549.21</b>	<b>£2,853.50</b>
Surplus/(deficit)	- £1,043.06	- £1,186.16
Account at beginning of year	£1,394.28	£2,580.44
<b>Account as at 31st July</b>	<b>£351.22</b>	<b>£1,394.28</b>

**Income**



■ Net raffles (79%)      ■ Stitching Together (1%)  
 ■ Blackpool Exhibition (20%)

**Expenditure**



■ Blackpool Exhibition (17%)      ■ RNLI Project (12%)  
 ■ Donations (1%)      ■ Young Arts (27%)  
 ■ Heritage Project (3%)      ■ Grand Theatre (39%)

Surplus funds are held either on Deposit at the bank or in the Patricia Faye Fund. The Accounts have been confirmed as a true and correct record by Jermy Stirrup. Full Accounts are available from Treasurer Jean Holland at [jeanho23@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanho23@hotmail.com)