

The Arts Society Fylde
Annual Report 2021-2022



Introduction

Once again it is my pleasure to introduce the Annual Report of The Arts Society Fylde.

Elsewhere in the Report you will find the individual contributions of your Committee members outlining all the activities that took place during the season. So it falls to me to provide an overview for this Report.

It would be fair to say that 2021/22 has been a period of transition for the Society. We emerged from the long tunnel of lockdown to recommence our lecture programme in September 2021 at the Lowther theatre. I am extremely grateful to all our members who attended the lectures throughout the season in person at the theatre. It proved once again that one of the main strengths of The Arts Society Fylde is the social aspect of our meetings, something which is simply not achievable by Zoom. However, some of our members still felt uncomfortable about public meetings and preferred to watch our lectures via Zoom. To make this happen was down to the efforts of one man, Tony Depledge, and we must all be very grateful to him.

In addition to a season of lectures which were all overwhelmingly voted as 'outstanding' by our members, we have had other social events which have been deeply appreciated by those who attended. It has all been part of a process to return to some sort of normality for the Society.

I must however point out that attendance at our lectures has been half of what was achieved before the pandemic. Overall membership of the Society has also sharply decreased and this has a huge bearing on our finances which your Committee has to address. I might add that fall in membership levels of other organisations to which I belong have followed a similar trend. However, it is my fervent hope that in the future our members, and those people whose membership has ceased, will still feel encouraged to support this Society which achieved so much in its first ten years of existence. For everyone the past twelve months have continued to be a challenging time, and the future of the Society will require commitment and support from every single member.

I wish to express my thanks to all the members of the Executive Committee for their encouragement and sheer hard work during the past year. I also thank our volunteers who helped on lecture days. In addition thanks must go to the staff and volunteers at the Lowther; they continue to create a safe environment in which we can enjoy our meetings and will provide socially distanced seating for those members still unsure about attending larger functions in the future.

I send to you all my thanks and special greetings.

Nigel G Bramley-Haworth
Chairman – The Arts Society Fylde

Lecture Programme

As in previous years our 2021-22 Lecture Programme offered a range of diverse topics centred on the arts. We were able to Zoom each lecture, apart from the final one, for those members unable to attend. Using our colour coded voting system members rated the majority of the season's lectures either 'excellent' or 'outstanding'.

Charles Harris got the season off to a flying start with his 'outstanding' lecture on the Art of the Railway Poster; we rounded off the season with a lecture from John Stenson on Musical Theatre in London and New York, complete with video clips.

Some of the season's speakers, like Michael Howard, were familiar to us from previous visits. Michael gave us a fascinating insight into the paintings of Walter Sickert and a critical analysis of claims that linked the painter to unsavoury events at the end of the 19th century. Some speakers, like Julia Marwood were more recently accredited Arts Society lecturers. Julia grew up in Lytham St Annes and was particularly pleased to be invited to speak. She presented an 'outstanding' lecture on the paintings of Adolphe Valette which she was familiar with through her work at the Manchester Galleries.

We are grateful to all our lecturers who were willing to travel despite ongoing concerns relating to Covid and we look forward to another successful season in 2022-23 when hopefully such concerns will have abated sufficiently for all members to enjoy the experience of live lectures.

Denise Malpas

Programme Secretary

Events & Visits

At last we were able to meet in person after the restrictions ended, so in October, to launch the new season, we held a very well supported coffee morning at Fylde Rugby Club. We made this a free event to thank our members for their support through two difficult years.

In December members enjoyed two events; a trip to Barton Grange to appreciate the wonderful Christmas displays; and a Christmas coffee morning held at Fylde Rugby Club.

Our excellent January lunch at Fairhaven Golf Club was a great success with members turning out in force.

In March the Study Day 'Sail Sweat and Sparkle', held at Fylde Rugby Club, was a complete sell-out as we were once more entertained by Brian Healey and savoured a good lunch between lectures.

Our Easter coffee morning followed the pattern of the previous two, with coffee/tea and pastries at Fylde Rugby Club, this time with an Easter themed raffle. It was pleasing that so many members attended this event.

Having been postponed once and cancelled once, we were finally able to confirm our day out in May. Travelling by coach to the fascinating Judges' Lodgings in Lancaster, followed by lunch at Morecambe Golf Club; then a very lively tour of The Winter Gardens, Morecambe, where we were made very welcome by the volunteers who served us refreshments as we listened to the theatre organ.

At the end of this successful year of recovery, we feel we are in a strong position to forge ahead with our friends to the coming season full of enthusiasm for more interesting events.

Jean Holland

Events Co-ordinator.

Our Organisation Membership

Whilst these last few years have been trying for all, the Arts Society Fylde have tried, during these difficult times to provide some continuity, by producing our annual programme curtesy of Zoom; this being the Society's response to the stringent Covid regulations.

Once the regulations severity was reduced, The Arts Society Fylde, with the assistance of the Lowther, recommenced our monthly lectures at the Lowther theatre. During this period, the Society along with the Lowther worked diligently to comply with the distancing regulations imposed at face to face meetings. The Arts Society Fylde were in fact one of the first of TAS Societies to enable members to attend monthly lectures in person.

We hope members have been content with our efforts to enable some continuity in providing the monthly lecture programme during these unprecedented times.

As matters are now more settled, we hope members will feel more able to attend the monthly lectures in person rather than viewing online.

The new programme commences in September 2022 and the Committee looks forward to welcoming all members to the new season's lectures. Whilst like many organisations' membership has dwindled and costs have spiralled, the Society endeavours to continue to provide value for money to its members.

Please note we are delighted to allow guests to attend the monthly lectures at a nominal fee of £8.00 per lecture.

In anticipation of increasing membership to pre pandemic levels we ask members, where possible, to advocate on the Society's behalf and encourage friends and family to join The Arts Society Fylde.

Lesley Peabody Brewer

Membership Secretary

Communications

The pandemic has highlighted just how important communications are in ensuring members still feel that they are part of our Society. A handful of members have yet to return to 'live' lectures; a number of others don't have or haven't provided an email address – both of which can make it difficult to keep members up to date with news and information. In these cases we have sometimes resorted to phone calls and post. For the majority who have provided email addresses, regular Mailchimp emails are still our main way of communicating. The basic Mailchimp service is free and it also offers opportunities to 'slice and dice' feedback data so, for example, we can see how many members have opened each email, the number of clicks through made, etc – all important information for tailoring the service to best suit the needs of members.

We are still committed to replacing paper with electronic-based alternatives wherever possible. Printing is expensive and we can distribute electronic copies at very little or no cost. Our monthly lecture notes leaflets are available on our website before the lecture takes place and can be viewed online and/or printed out. They are then stored on the website as a permanent archive. Our spring 2022 newsletter, *In the Picture*, was printed and distributed at lectures, but the autumn 2022 issue and this Annual Report are available in electronic formats only. The fact

that those few members without an email address can't receive these remains a problem, especially with the increasing postal costs.

The Arts Society has produced a host of publicity-related material aimed at attracting new members and which it has made freely available to individual Societies. TAS also offers a 'Create Your Own' service which provides design assistance to Societies in creating their own personalised leaflets and posters. Our Society has taken advantage of all of these services, while saving on costs at the same time. We still maintain a presence on social media, specifically Facebook and Twitter – their users of today are our potential members of tomorrow, and both offer opportunities for highlighting our presence locally and further afield.

Our thanks to those members who have submitted items for our two 2022 newsletters – we really do appreciate hearing from you. Thanks also to Tony Depledge for creating the lecture notes leaflets, Fiona Walmsley Collins for her continued help in maintaining our archive and to Simon Foster for his help in the design of the newsletters.

Pam Foster

Communications Secretary

The Executive Committee 2021-2022

Chair	Nigel Bramley- Haworth
Vice-Chair	Christina McHugh
Treasurer	Rowland Darbyshire
Minutes Secretary	Christine Marshall [resigned March 2022] Hilary Cresswell [From May 2022 -]
Membership Secretary	Lesley Peabody Brewer
Programme Secretary	Denise Malpas
Communications Officer	Pam Foster
Events Co-ordinator	Jean Holland



Front cover membership card 2021/2022

The Arts Society Fylde
Financial Report Year Ended July 2022

General Account

Receipts

	£	
Subscriptions		9245
Joining Fees		100
Visitors fees		416
Gift aid		398

Events

Barton Grange		417
Christmas lunch		2560
Study day		3990
Miscellaneous		26
Coffee morning		131
Judges lodgings		1341

Total receipts

£ 18,624

Payments

Study Days & Events	5601
Lecturers fees	4382
Lecturers expenses	585
Arts Society affiliation fee	3478
Hire of meeting room	2020
Website	510
Printing and stationery	927
Committee expenses	229
Miscellaneous	124
Storage	630
Transfer	100
Bank charges	77

Total payments

18663 £ 18,663

Net receipts less payments 21/22

-£39

Good Causes Account

Total receipts (raffles)

£815

Less Payments

Donations to Fylde libraries	900
Raffles	109
Transfer	113

Total payments

1,122

£1,122

Net receipts less payments 21/22

-£307

Bank balances at 31 July 2022

General Account	11182
Good Causes Account	325
Patricia Fay Memorial fund	10000
Deposit Account	5100

Total cash at bank **£26,607**

Declaration

I have examined the receipts and payments records of The Arts Society Fylde for the year ended 31 July 2022 and find them in accordance with the records and vouchers presented to me.

Jeremy N Stirrup
Aug-22

Our thanks to Jeremy for the many years he has given his support and assistance as Financial Examiner for the Society.

***The Arts Society Fylde is affiliated to The Arts Society
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020 7430 0730. theartssociety.org***

