

Enriching lives through the Arts

This is my last report as your Chairman and I want to say what a privilege and pleasure my term of office has been. I have been so fortunate that my time as Chairman has coincided with an exciting time in the life of the Society- our new name, logo and image and the celebration of our 20th anniversary and the Golden Anniversary of The Arts Society (NADFAS). I think my most memorable highlight was the Golden Jubilee Service in Westminster Abbey, the clergy wearing gold vestments, a full choir, Readings by Lloyd Grossman and Simon Callow and the Address given by the Right Revd Christopher Herbert formerly the Bishop of St Albans and a NADFAS accredited lecturer.

We have enjoyed an excellent season of lectures linked in to our Book of the Month raffle, an enlightening and enjoyable visit to the V&A Dundee, and visits to the Lyon & Turnbull Focus exhibitions at their Glasgow Office when small groups of our members see works of art in an intimate setting. Our summer visit is to Mackintosh at the Willow including lunch in the Salon de Luxe, and the Royal College of Physicians to see their Art Collections on June 19th.

We had a fascinating Study Day on one aspect of crime, Fakes and Forgeries and the Art Beat coinciding nicely with some television programmes featuring Fiona Bruce.

We are most grateful to Jean Cook for our website and newsletters and for advertising our lectures in the local press. We can now invite members of the public to attend a lecture for £10 and hope to attract new members.

Our volunteering arms are busy - Church Recording, Heritage Volunteers and Young Arts. We hope to show you much of what they do at our Artsfest in November. At present some of our members are working on the collections in the Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club.

We welcomed Florian Schweizer, the CEO of The Arts Society and were able to question him about the future course of The Arts Society. He ran a stage of his fundraising sponsored run round Helensburgh and the Peninsula and came back to a festive supper in Nigel's house.

All of this does not happen without our hardworking committee. We are going to lose Ian Bone, Programme Secretary, Angela Shannon, Study Days, Nigel Allan, Membership Secretary and Jean Cook, Webmaster. Jean will continue to keep our website running and updated and send out our newsletters. I shall thank them all properly at our AGM. We are fortunate that we are able to have a full committee for our next session and I wish them well and know that we are in safe hands

Jeannette Scobie