

THE ARTS SOCIETY LOMOND & ARGYLL

Twenty-two years ago, on 4th December 1997 The Lomond & Argyll Decorative & Fine Arts Society held its inaugural meeting at the Commodore Hotel; the 300th member society of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) & part of the Scotland & Northern Ireland Area. It serves the Lomond, Argyll & Bute areas. The aim of the society was, and is, encouraging the love of pleasure in and learning about the Arts for all. In 2017 a major rebranding of the National Society took place and so LADFAS became known as The Arts Society Lomond & Argyll. Initial membership was restricted to 200 members; now it is 300. To accommodate more members lectures have been held in the Victoria Halls since 2012 and are held on the second Tuesday of the month; except July and August.

Since its inception the society has welcomed an amazing array of well-qualified lecturers to inform and inspire us. Topics covered have ranged from Miners art, all manner of composers, textiles, architecture, furniture, glass & Aboriginal Art as well as lectures on something as seemingly mundane as Wallpaper. Every year a Study Day is held with an array of subjects as varied as Monet and the Impressionists, Tribal Rugs & "The Fine Art of Crime". Visits are arranged locally and there have been trips abroad.

The aim of the society is also to engage with our local community and to this end The Church Recorders, all from the membership, have made records of Rhu Parish Church, St Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church and have nearly completed that of Cardross Parish Church. The Church is given a fully bound copy and digital copies are held by the Victoria & Albert Museum, who initiated the project, the local authorities and the local archive. A Church Trail was also completed at Cardross Church for children.

The Heritage Volunteers, "The Silver Surfers", again all membership volunteers, have been helping at the The Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum in Glasgow. To date they have catalogued the extensive Medal Collection & now are in the throes of cleaning and recording the Regimental Silver.

An important aim of all Societies is to engage young people with arts related activities, particularly those who may feel marginalised or receive little encouragement or funding. In the past we supported the Tulloch Trust. A further initiative was made possible with the award of a grant from the Patricia Fay Memorial Fund to sponsor a weeklong pottery workshop for young female offenders in HM Prison Cornton Vale. Young Arts Coordinators have in recent years forged strong links with Route 81 in Garelochhead; this year's grant has enabled the young people to create a commemorative artwork to celebrate the life of a long- standing member and supporter. In the past three years life drawing workshops have been held for senior pupils of Hermitage Academy and Lomond School, facilitated by Karlyn Marshall of The Art Hub. These young people are invited annually to display their work at some of our lectures. The Committee is currently exploring ways of supporting The Art Hub, a recently established social enterprise.

All this activity is co-ordinated by a small committee of enthusiastic volunteers and we are always looking for like-minded members to join us.