

**NIDD VALLEY DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY (DFAS)**

Known as Arts Society Nidd Valley

A Member Society of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts  
Societies (known as The Arts Society)  
Registered Charity Number 513176

**ANNUAL REPORT Incorporating the Chair's Report**

1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024

**Committee:** The following were elected at the AGM in October 2023

*\*Denotes Trustees confirmed during a review April/May 2023*

<b>Officers and Committee Members:</b>	Ms Mary Banks *	Chair
	Dr Tom Houghton*	Treasurer
	Vacancy	Hon Secretary
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Mrs Beulah Chatten*	Programme
	Mrs Lindsay Mitchell*	Membership & Communications
	Mrs Janet Brearley*	Outings

**President** Mrs Pamela Nicholson (Founder Chairman)

**Bankers:** Charities Aid Foundation (CAF),  
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent,  
ME19 4JQ

**Honorary Independent Examiner:** Mr Peter Gambles

**Website :** [theartssocietyniddvalley.org.uk](http://theartssocietyniddvalley.org.uk)

**Email :** [niddvalley@theartssociety.org](mailto:niddvalley@theartssociety.org)

## **Governance**

Nidd Valley DFAS operates as a member society of The Arts Society and is governed by the Nidd Valley Decorative and Fine Arts Society *Constitution and Rules* as amended in 2023, (register updated by the Charity Commission on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024).

Objects: as stated in the *Constitution and Rules*

As a member of The Arts Society, the Society shall have as its objects:

- a. the promotion and advancement of the education of the public in the cultivation, appreciation and study of the decorative and fine arts;
- b. b. the conservation and preservation of the artistic heritage of the United Kingdom and other countries for the benefit of the public; and
- c. c. the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, in particular, but without limitation, the decorative and fine arts.

We have engaged in a range of activities, identified below, that directly or indirectly support these objects. As well as updating the Constitution in 2023, we have updated our policies to ensure we are compliant with the standards set by the Charity Commission.

## **Links with the Community**

We are committed to the principle of public benefit, and to this end we publicise our existence and programme through the local libraries and other public places as well as through our members. Membership is open to everyone over 18, as detailed in the Constitution (section 4). Non-members are welcome to attend as guests, up to a maximum of normally 3 lectures a year. We are able to offer a Community grant of £250 to local causes to extend involvement in the Arts. Last year we financed a ceramic painting workshop to offer respite for some Harrogate Young Carers. We welcome ideas of good causes to support in this way.

## **Committee**

We have a small, dedicated team who devote a lot of time to making the Society the best we can be. (The position of Honorary Secretary remains unfilled, having become vacant at the AGM in 2023. As an interim measure, Mary Banks fulfils that role in addition to being Chair.) The Committee is elected annually in accordance with the Constitution (Sections 5 and 6). Currently all elected members of the Committee are also Trustees. We are grateful for the help of our regular volunteers who help us with the various activities on lecture evenings – Kate Duffy, Anne Quan, Sue Welch, Angela Tippey, Sue Richardson and Mark Wilkinson: we couldn't do it without you. We would also like to thank our members who hosted lecturers – Barry Mortimer, Joanna Pierce and Charles & Charlotte Monck; both hosts and lecturers had an enjoyable experience. As always, we welcome support and involvement, both on the committee and helping behind the scenes.

## **Membership**

We have had a broadly steady membership of 127 individuals over the year, and our (challenging) target is to maintain that figure. We always lose some members at the end of the membership year as individuals review their involvement and their plans for the year ahead. Word of mouth is generally the most successful way of finding new members although we have also had success through our efforts to publicise our activities more widely particularly in libraries and through a

contact in the local paper. We held a New Members Party in March, giving newcomers an opportunity to meet other members and the committee. We aspire to provide a great learning and social experience that will please existing members and attract new people throughout the community.

### **Communications**

The monthly newsletter goes to every member so members can keep up-to-date with what's happening, and our website provides an up-to-date view of what is on offer (ideal for potential members to look at and to find a membership form). For the coming year we have updated the look and feel of our trifold which publicises our activities with the kind help of the staff in Arts Society Head Office. We hope that this updates our look and appeal as well as reducing our costs in production. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our communications, we would be very pleased to hear them.

### **Lecture Programme**

Our 2023-24 lecture programme provided us with ten varied and interesting lectures covering a wide range of The Arts. From our research it was concluded that there continues to be a preference for Zoom delivery over the winter months of January and February, which gives members the option to watch at home or come along to Christchurch (HG1 4SW) to watch together. Particularly popular lectures this year were Roger Mendham, who provided us with the opportunity to examine in depth some of the most stunning and iconic photographs taken over recent times, and Julia Marwood who introduced us to The Glasgow Boys, with many fascinating details about the artists' technique and approach. We finished our year with the return, by popular request, of Clyde Binfield who amused and entertained us, and widened our knowledge of three of the most unusual created places: Portmeirion, Poundbury and Bekonscot.

### **Outings**

We have enjoyed some memorable outings during the last twelve months. We began with a four day trip to North Wales in September, with visits to Portmeirion village and Bodnant Gardens as two of the highlights. In late November, a group of members spent a lovely day at Burton Constable, looking around a country house at Christmas. In the spring we travelled to Welbeck Abbey to visit the Harley Galleries which display some of the Duke of Portland's collection of art and artefacts, returning via Goldsborough House, where the owner treated us to a detailed history of the property, accompanied by tea and scones! We made a return visit in June to the Auckland Project in Bishop Auckland, to view the impressive newly opened Faith Museum and changing exhibitions in the Spanish Gallery, the Bishops' Palace and the Miners' Museum. All our visits and trips are well attended and much enjoyed.

### **Publicity**

So many people are not aware of the existence of the Arts Society; there is value in promoting ourselves to new audiences in the community, and encouraging people to come along as a guest and try us out. Our members have done a great job – we had over 90 guest attendances during the year, and we hope that some of them will convert to full membership. Twice a year we use promotional space in Harrogate library to display materials and encourage interest. Our colourful trifolds have proved to be an excellent marketing tool, and you should be seeing them in libraries and on noticeboards in different venues. (Let us know if we are missing somewhere useful, or, better still, keep some spare trifolds to pin up on noticeboards as you pass by.)

### **Finance**

Financially, we finished the year in a much stronger position than previously, having achieved a surplus of £4,095. This is great news. Our annual subscription of £60 provides great value for money – it increased from £50 to £60 at the start of the year under review. Our activities such as the book sale, raffle and refreshments have provided a good environment to socialise and make friends, as well as raising some extra income. However, in recent years the Society has experienced reducing membership numbers, and efforts are being made to reverse this trend. In the meantime, reserves in excess of 50% of annual expenditure are being maintained to secure the continuation of the Society over the next few years. The Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and more detailed Report of the Treasurer on the financial year is included in these papers for the AGM.

### **This next year**

Fingers crossed that we maintain a good level of membership. We are looking forward to an enjoyable year of lectures, events and socialising. We enjoy your company; we hope you enjoy ours, and the company of your fellow members!

The Annual Report 2023/24 has been compiled by Mary Banks (Chair/Trustee) and the Trustees (Members of the Committee). It was agreed by a meeting of the Trustees on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Signed by Mary Banks on behalf of the Trustees.....

**Nidd Valley Decorative and Fine Arts Society**  
**(Operating as Arts Society Nidd Valley, Registered Charity No. 513176)**

**Report on the Accounts For The Year Ending 31st July 2024**

This report relates to the Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31st July 2024 and the Balance Sheet at 31st July 2024 which have been distributed with the papers for this AGM. The accounts have been examined and signed off by Mr Peter Gambles (Independent Financial Examiner).

The Income and Expenditure Account identifies that in the 2023-2024 financial year the Society achieved £27,784.64 in income and spent £23,690.99. This resulted in a surplus for the year of £4,093.65. Again this year, the Society has run a number of successful outings which collectively have generated surpluses. Also successful has been efforts to raise income from activities including voluntary donations from visitors, raffles, books sales and refreshments. The lecture held in January was particularly successful with 29 visitors participating in the zoom option.

The Balance Sheet identifies the assets we are holding (e.g. deposits at CAF Bank, Patricia Faye Memorial Fund) and the amount. As identified in the line 'Net Assets' our assets have increased from £9,922.29 at 31st July 2023 to £14,015.94 at 31st July 2024, the increase being explained by the surplus identified in the Income and Expenditure Account. Members will also note that there are a couple of adjustments to the accounts identified in the balance sheet. We paid deposits for the Scotland holiday and there was a payment for the forthcoming Mount Grace outing (£1,577.45) and the Society achieved payments from participants in forthcoming outings (£16,960.60). These outings take place in the 2024-2025 financial year so to make the accounts meaningful the payments have been transferred to the accounts for that year. Similarly, we achieved membership subscriptions (£1,810.00) ahead of the new year so again it was appropriate to transfer the income to the 2024-2025 financial year.

Overall, financially like last year, it was a successful end to the year. The surplus has enabled the society to further build up its reserves. This is necessary because as expenditure increases so should reserves. The Committee is particularly mindful that the Society is continuing to suffer from reducing membership numbers and over the next few years if this continues it is likely to depend on its reserves to support its continuing existence. In addition, the surplus has enabled the Society to keep subscription levels for 2024-2025 at the same level as for the previous year and also embark on an ambitious programme of outings for 2024-2025 including a special interest day to be held at Goldsborough Hall in December.

Thank you to all members for the contributions made to boosting our income whether it be buying a raffle ticket, buying a book, bringing a visitor, or participating in our outings, etc. As mentioned above, membership is one of our current significant challenges and we need to continue our efforts to attract new members. To be successful, this needs input from members of the Committee but also from the membership as a whole.

Dr Tom Houghton  
Treasurer  
Nidd Valley Decorative and Fine Arts Society  
August 2024

# Nidd Valley Decorative and Fine Arts Society Income and Expenditure Account For The Year To 31st July 2024

	2023-2024	2022-2023
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Account Interest	26.92	15.94
Book Sale	165.40	202.50
Coffee and Tea Sales	126.60	124.68
Community Grant	250.00	0.00
Gift Aid Recovery	1,324.52	1,129.21
Guest Donations	702.00	671.00
Member Subscriptions	7,740.00	6,965.05
Miscellaneous Credits	0.00	50.00
Outings Income	16,686.00	10,723.00
Raffle Income	443.20	346.50
Voluntary Donations	320.00	469.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>27,784.64</b>	<b>20,696.88</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Arts Society Charge	2,151.90	2,518.52
Arts Society NE Charge	27.00	0.00
Bank Charges	81.60	87.00
Coffee and Tea Expenses	17.52	20.67
Committee Members' Expenses	106.39	110.55
Community Grant	250.00	0.00
Equipment	62.98	0.00
Insurance	99.00	175.00
Lecturer Fees and Expenses	3,977.39	3,455.14
Miscellaneous Debits	30.00	60.00
Outings Expenditure	14,342.75	9,318.75
Postage	24.05	63.39
Printing and Stationery	131.07	321.90
Raffle Expenditure	49.94	32.88
Room Hire	1,527.80	1,308.25
Social Events Expenditure	100.60	99.39
Technical Support	625.00	570.00
Website	86.00	94.39
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>23,690.99</b>	<b>18,235.83</b>
<b>Surplus or Deficit For the Year</b>	<b>4,093.65</b>	<b>2,461.05</b>
	(Surplus)	(Surplus)

**Nidd Valley Decorative and Fine Arts Society Balance Sheet At 31st July 2024**

	31st July 2024	31st July 2023	Notes on position at 31st July 2024
	£	£	
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash in hand	30.00	25.00	
Cash at CAF Bank	27,179.09	20,658.29	
Patricia Fay Memorial Fund Loan Account	4,000.00	4,000.00	
Debtors and prepaid expenses	1,577.45	1,350.00	Payments for October 2024 Scotland outing (£1567.00) and September 2024 Mount Grace Priory and Kiplin Hall outing (£10.45)
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>32,786.54</b>	<b>26,033.29</b>	
<b>Less Current Liabilities</b>			
Deferred income from outings	16,960.60	12,566.00	Income received from participants for October 2024 Scotland outing (£15,232); September 2024 visit to Mount Grace Priory and Kiplin Hall (£1143.60) and December 2024 Goldsborough Special Interest Day (£585).
Deferred income from subscriptions and voluntary donations	1,810.00	3,545.00	Subscription income received ahead of the 2024-2025 financial year carried forward
Other creditors and accrued expenses	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>18,770.60</b>	<b>16,111.00</b>	
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>14,015.94</b>	<b>9,922.29</b>	
			Dr Tom Houghton, Treasurer
			Mr Peter Gambles, Independent Financial Examiner

## ***Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of:-***

### ***Nidd Valley Decorative & Fine Arts Society***

This Report is for the period ended 31 July 2024

#### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011(the Charities Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act

to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charity Act), and

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required by an audit, and consequently no opinion as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### ***Independent Examiner's Statement***

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below\*)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act,
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met;
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
3. I have not obtained independent verification of investment/bank balances.

Name: Peter Gambles

Signature

Relevant Professional qualification or body: Retired Registered Insurance Broker

Address 1 Hornbeam Crescent, Harrogate, HG2 8QA

Date: 7 August 2024