

THE ARTS SOCIETY DRIFFIELD WOLDS



Chairman's Report

Highfield House was the venue for our 35th Anniversary celebration in July. It concluded a very busy and interesting year. We were entertained by two very talented musicians from Driffield School during the evening, part of our Young Arts sponsorship.

Our Committee members and volunteers have worked hard to create some enjoyable events throughout the year. Our lecturers have come from all over the country and have given us some excellent talks on a wide range of subjects.

Most of our visits have been to houses not regularly open to the public, with personal guides by the owners of the property, making them so memorable.

It has been lovely to welcome so many new members this year to our Society, and we hope next year to see new members and guests join us as we continue to explore The Arts.

Ann

Visits

We have had some very interesting and enjoyable visits since the last AGM. In October, 25 members met at Boynton Hall and Sally Marriott took us round her beautiful home. Originally built in the 16th Century for the Stricklands, it was sold in the 1950's to a developer who turned it into flats. Mrs Marriott and her husband purchased the hall in the 1980's and undertook a sympathetic restoration back to its former glory as a fine family residence right



Farnley Hall near Otley was our next visit in April. We took a coach and spent the morning exploring Ilkley before heading into Wharfedale to visit the home of the Fawkes family. This was one of JMW Turner's favourite places to paint and stay. The hall is in a superb location in Wharfedale looking across to Otley Chevin which became the inspiration for JMW Turner's "Hannibal Crossing the Alps".

Photo left was taken by our driver with his drone-mounted camera

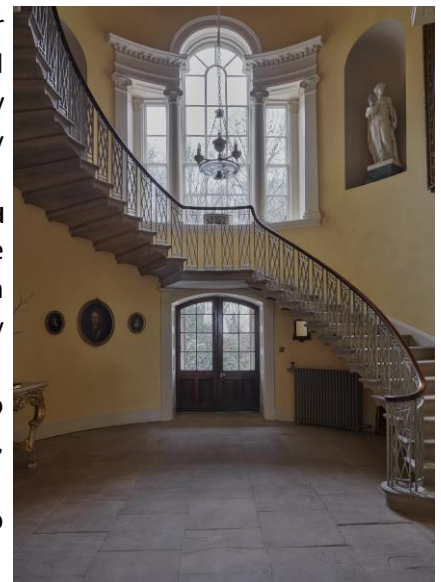
In May, 18 members met at the late-Georgian Brockfield Hall at Warthill near York. One of the outstanding features is the oval entrance with a cantilevered stone staircase curving past an impressive Venetian window. We were met by Mr Wood who handed us over to his father for a guided tour and an opportunity to see his collection of Staithes Group paintings.

Photo right by kind permission of Mr Charlie Wood

In September we are having a full day talk and tour of Tennants Auction House near Leyburn (including lunch at their bistro). It is a unique opportunity for a behind-the-scenes look, view the forthcoming sales and learn about the history of Tennants.

A suggestion for a day visit in 2024 is Auckland Castle where there is plenty to see: the Spanish Art Gallery including Francisco de Zurbaran's masterpieces, Mining Museum, Faith Museum, Castle and Gardens.

We are happy to receive any other suggestions for future visits. Thank you to all those who have supported us over the last year.



Liz

Membership Report

We ended 2022 with 86 members and are down to 82 members for 2023. However, we have had more visitors than ever before (50 to end of June) and it is hoped that some of these will join the Society in 2024.

We have lost some older members and several members are reluctant to drive in the dark to evening meetings in the winter. On the plus side, we have gained a number of younger members and we hope that this will continue to be the trend. Word of mouth is still the most successful way of attracting new members.

We continue to use the MailChimp system for email communication to members and have used the local paper (Driffield & Wolds Weekly) and different Facebook groups to reach a wider audience.

We would like to increase our membership in 2024 and encourage all current members to try and bring along a friend (or friends!) as visitors or potential members. Any suggestions for boosting membership of our Society are always welcome.

We are very sad to have lost Jane Warburton, one of our founder members, during July. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Jo.

Young Arts

Our first sponsorship was at North Frodingham School which had been initiated by Lucy last year liaising with Jane Butterworth from the school.

The children were inspired by the artwork around the border on the King's Coronation invitations which featured flora and fauna. With the help of local artist, Katy Cobb, the children drew designs of flowers and insects which were then faithfully reproduced on the outside walls of the school building around the playground.



Thanks to Helga for the report and photo

The results are a fantastically colourful mural centring around a Green Man of which the children are extremely proud. As the paint used can last for 15 years this will be a much admired piece for a long time.

Our second sponsorship was for two musicians from Driffield School to play at our 35th Anniversary dinner at The Highfield House held on 29 June. Ruby (15) and Ava (13) sang and played a variety of folk songs on the mandolin and guitar. This was a lovely start to what was a very successful evening.

We gave a sponsorship cheque to Driffield School Music Department in recognition of their performance.

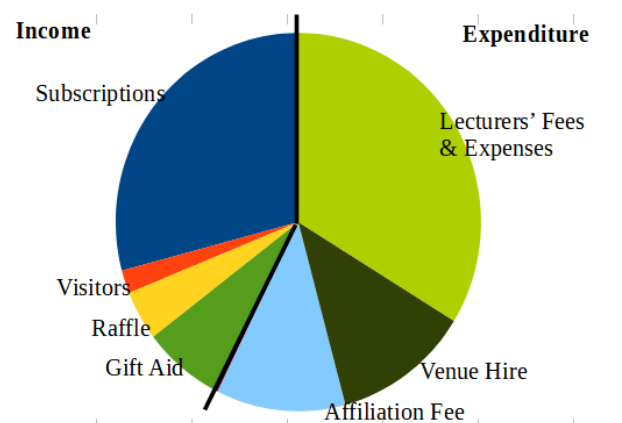
Treasurer's Report

2023 has been a year when we encountered headwinds with the rising costs of speaker fees and our membership has remained at just over 80. Some talks attracted non-members which helped us but we could not rely on this income. Fortunately our Bond investment matured which will help us through the next year.

There can be no doubt that our current membership fee of £45 will not provide enough for us to continue engaging the high standard of speakers that we wish to welcome to our meetings. We propose to increase the fee to £55.

The 35th Anniversary Dinner was self-financing and was a great success.

Peter P.



Date for your Diary



Christmas Dinner
Friday 8th December at Driffield Golf Club

