

**The Nigerian Field Society (UK Branch)  
Report for 2014**

The annual general meeting (AGM) was held at the Parrot Inn, Shalford, near Guildford, on 26 April 2014. Elections were held and a number of new officers were appointed. The new office holders are as follows: chairman (Joyce Lowe), vice chairman (Jen Maddison), treasurer (Lilian Coe), secretary (Philip Allsworth-Jones) and newsletter liaison officer (Barbara Ryder). The previous holders of these posts, Rob Oldham, Geoff and Dinah Partridge, Sheila Everard, and Rachel Nicholson were thanked for all their hard work over the years. Apart from those staying on *ex officio* for one year, other members of the committee are John Appleby, Stephen Graham, Brian Hopkins and Elaine Oldham. The UK branch currently has 132 full members.

At the AGM, a talk was given by Jim Connolly about his time as a lecturer in the fine arts department in ABU, Zaria in the 1960's, and after the meeting we visited two historic houses in Guildford, Abbott's Hospital and the Guildford House Gallery. Both are 17th century Grade I listed buildings. Dinner was held at the Parrot Inn. On the morning of 27 April, we returned for a walk through the centre of Guildford. The town dates back to the Saxon times, and has a number of buildings from the medieval period, including a now ruined royal castle. More recent residents included the Rev. Charles Dodgson, otherwise known as Lewis Carroll, who composed *Alice Through the Looking Glass* in 1871. On the afternoon of that day, we visited the Watts Gallery, in the village of Compton, not far from Guildford. The gallery is named after the Victorian painter, G.F. Watts, and it contains a number of his paintings and sculptures. Watts and his wife, Mary, lived in a large house opposite called Limnerslease, and Mary Watts was also responsible for the creation of a cemetery chapel in the Celtic Romanesque style. The gallery was deemed to be at risk in 2004, but it has been restored thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, and was reopened to the public in 2011. They have a lively programme of events and special exhibitions. Thanks go to Lilian and Raymond Coe for organizing this very interesting visit to Guildford and Compton.

The summer meeting of the branch took place on 28 and 29 June, and was held at Killin near Aberfeldy in Scotland. On the first day, a visit was made to Ben Lawers, beside Loch Tay, where the National Trust for Scotland has responsibility for a nature reserve well known for its collection of rare alpine and arctic plants. On the second day, the party returned to visit the Ben Lawers Historic Landscape project, run by the University of Glasgow. In 1790, the owners of the estate in this area encouraged farmers to occupy



some of the more marginal land but, by the 1840's, it became evident that the venture was not profitable, and the last house was abandoned in 1860. It was understood that the majority of the farmers emigrated to Canada. Some of the houses of the farmers on these marginal lands have been excavated as part of the project. The group visited one of the buildings in this area as well, the Mourlanich Longhouse, also managed by the National Trust for Scotland. This building was abandoned in 1968 and was acquired by the trust in 1992. The family and their livestock occupied different parts of the same building, and it is described as a rare survival of this type of accommodation in the Central Highlands. The arrangements for this visit were very kindly made by Avril Simpson.

The autumn meeting of the branch was a joint one with the Cambridge African Archaeology Group (CCAG), and it was held at the McDonald Institute in Cambridge, on 20 and 21 September 2014. This event had its origin in the suggestion that there might be a 'road show', where NFS members could showcase some of the artefacts they had acquired during their time in West Africa. It was decided to broaden this out and instead have a symposium, of which the road show could be a part, under the title *West African Art in Context*. Thanks go to the members of the CAAG, who helped to realize this project: Matt Davies, Jacke Phillips, Laurence Smith, and Shadia Taha. Thirty-four persons attended the event on 20 September, including ten speakers and organizers. The invited speakers included Fiona Savage (Sainsbury Research Unit, University of East Anglia), Charles Gore (SOAS, London), Angela Rackham (nee Fagg), Philip Allsworth-Jones, Nikolas Gestrich (UCL, Institute of Archaeology) and Matt Davies (McDonald Institute), as well as Pat Oyelola, the former editor of the journal, whom we were particularly pleased to welcome to the meeting. She not only spoke on *Remembering with Cloth*, in which she referred among others to El Anatsui and Yinka Shonibare, she also chaired a session on *Modern Nigerian Arts and Crafts*, which incorporated the original idea of a road show. She presented a copy of her book, *Nigerian Artistry*, to the McDonald Institute in recognition of their help in staging this event. The day was rounded off by a wine reception in the McDonald Institute, and most people then went on to have dinner at a restaurant in Newnham. On 21 September, the NFS members enjoyed a guided tour of the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens, founded in 1762, but operative on this site since 1831. Professor Henslow, Darwin's mentor, had much to do with it in its early days. It is now divided into 23 different sections, and it has both a research and a public educational and recreational function. Our tour, and the event as a whole, ended with lunch in the café attached to the new Sainsbury Laboratory in the gardens.



### Obituaries

The deaths of Dr D.R. Goddard and Mr F.N. Hepper were recorded in the previous volume of the journal. Unfortunately, there are four more which now need to be noted, including one of which we only recently became aware.

Prof. J.E. Webb	2 December 2011
Mr R.E. (Bob) Sharland	28 June 2013
Mr D.F. Smith	23 September 2013
Mr J.B. Heigham	August 2014

### Programme for 2015

Spring Meeting and AGM: Ulverston, Cumbria, 2-3 May 2015

Summer Meeting: Reading, 4-5 July, 2015.

Autumn Meeting: Richmond Park, London, 12 September 2015

Philip Allsworth-Jones, Branch Secretary

**NIGERIAN FIELD SOCIETY - UK ACCOUNTS FOR 2013**  
**Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31 December 2013**

**RECEIPTS**

2012			2013
£			£
1,264	Ordinary subscriptions, and donations		1,169
205	2012 Corporate subscriptions	2013	275
270	2013 " "	2014	199
5	Sale of back numbers		--
10	Advertisements		10
70	Interest (Halifax account)		---
<u>1,824</u>			<u>1,653</u>

**PAYMENTS**

330	Postage	394
100	Stationery, photocopies & computer media	81
--	Printing	3,500
20	UK Branch subscriptions	15
600	Grant for travel	----
<u>1,050</u>		<u>3,990</u>
774	Difference between Receipts and Payments	(2,337)

**BALANCES as at 31 DECEMBER 2013****STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

27,158	Opening balances at beginning of year	27,932
774	Difference between Receipts and Payments	(2,337)
<u>27,932</u>		<u>25,595</u>

**CASH AT BANKS**

National Westminster Bank:		
27,932	Current Account	25,595

Notes: Subscription income continues to fall, year on year, due to loss of members. There is now no interest income, because (as explained last year) Halifax discontinued its savings accounts for societies, and it has not proved possible to invest the funds with another bank. Payments were much higher, as two transfers were made for printing journals for the 2012 and 2013 issues (Note that nothing was transferred in 2012.)

Dr Joyce Lowe, Council Member Resident in U.K., January 2014.



ANNOUNCING TO ALL MEMBERS

85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE

NIGERIAN FIELD SOCIETY

1930 -2015

(Founded by Frank Bridges in 1930, in Enugu)

VENUE: Lady Bank Anthony Hall  
University of Ibadan

DATE: Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015

TIME: 10.00 a.m.

The 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will kickoff with a SYMPOSIUM,  
followed by a lunch break and then the annual business meeting

Symposium Theme:

*Changing Patterns in Nigerian Art & Culture*

FOUR GUEST LECTURERS

1. Cordelia Ososona
2. Babasehinde Ademuleya
3. Peju Layiwola
4. Kunle Filani

We look forward to seeing members from all the branches