

PEDAS Archive 1924-2023

As part of our Centenary year we decided to organise our Archive, which had been held in a few boxes with little or no way of knowing what it contained or how to find things.

John Biggs and more particularly, Pat Burnham have been working on this with the expert advice and assistance of Steve Smith, formerly archivist at B&P College.

What is the current situation?

A huge collection of paper records has been reduced to 1 box. From around 2000, all records are being kept in digital form.

We have also selected categories for the future of the archive, to be kept digitally: Exhibitions; AGM/EGM notes and Minutes; Committee minutes; Newsletters; Miscellaneous, including Rules and Constitution, Gallery, Charity matters etc.

Steve has catalogued the archive in the above categories, so we now have a comprehensive list of all documents held digitally.

We have also catalogued the coloured boxes containing paper documents, pertaining to exhibitions, Bulletins, Newsletters, Minutes of meetings, attendance and other miscellaneous subjects.

There will be a section on our website entitled "PEDAS archive" containing a summary of contents and the catalogues. We have appointed Steve Smith to be PEDAS Archivist. She will be the keeper of the boxes containing the paper archive. Steve will answer requests (with assistance from Members) and conduct an annual review of the catalogue.

How does anyone interrogate the archive?

Whenever there is a question about the history of the club we will enlist the help of Steve to find the answer. Actual papers can be seen on request or copies produced.

Is everything there?

It is surprising how many gaps there are. It is hard to see how some will be filled, but if you have a load of PEDAS memorabilia stashed away under the bed or somewhere, now it the time to dig them out.

Probably the biggest omissions are the catalogues from 1925/26/27. But we are also missing catalogues from 1947,59,63, 65/6/7, 81/82, 86/87/88, 90/91/92.

We cannot find AGM minutes from 2013/14/15. If anyone has copies of those, please let John Biggs know.

Exhibition information, including posters are also missing for 2001/03/13/14 and 2016-19. I expect some or all of those are around somewhere so if you have them please pass them on to me for adding to the Archive.

The most surprising omission, and one that needs rectifying, is that there is not a list of artists and works for exhibitions since at least 1990's. Any information will be gratefully received. In the meantime we will take action to ensure such omissions do not recur.