

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

This, my final newsletter as Chairman, gives me a chance to reflect over the past four years. The Society continues to provide a popular access to the Arts here in the Village with a monthly attendance of about 150 and a waiting list of local people seeking membership. We have maintained the quality and subject range of speakers and visits. We have utilised emailing and our website for the increasing number of members using the Internet whilst continuing contact by post of those without. To meet the needs of lecturers making ever more creative use of digital presentations, we will purchase the new digital system in January.

I am so grateful to all who voluntarily give their time to the Society. On behalf of the Committee may I extend to everyone Best Wishes for Christmas and for a Peaceful New Year.

Dr John Cook

CHURCH RECORDERS

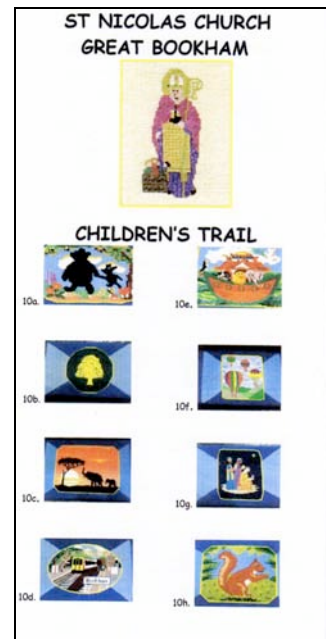


Photo Derek Simmonds

The Children's Trail section of the Church Recording project has been completed and was presented to St Nicolas Church at the Children's Service on 1st November 2009.

It is designed for children aged 7 – 11 years. It is hoped that its colourful format will encourage them to look more closely at the interior features of the church, such as the stained glass windows and memorials, to find out about the interesting stories that lie behind them. The trail takes in both the

highs and the lows by starting in the Tower with a question about the bells and finishing with a Kneeler Hunt in the Nave.



There is also an Information and Answer sheet for adults accompanying the children, which hopefully might encourage members to participate with the younger generations of their families.

Jenny Denison

YOUNG ARTS

Each year our Society supports an activity to encourage young people to appreciate the arts. Over the years we have been actively involved in the Schools Art Exhibition and sponsored artists in several of the local junior schools. This year we are contributing towards the cost of an artist helping the children at Polesden Lacey Infant School to create a mural of their values.

We really need a member to take on the role of Young Arts Representative. It is not an onerous task and might suit a retired teacher. Please contact either John Tiffney or John Cook to discuss the nature of the role.

PROGRAMME

You have now all received your programmes for 2010. I will soon be starting to prepare the programme for 2011 and thank those of you who have sent me their suggestions for lectures. I will be including a lecture/s on the Victorians and their art to

link in with a major exhibition in 2011 at the V & A. We try to include lectures which will give more background information on major exhibitions.

In March NADFAS holds a NADFAS Directory Day in London where newly approved lecturers give a three minute talk on their subjects and established lecturers one minute! It gives a good overview and also enables us to look for new lecturers for our meetings as we have done so with Twigs Way in 2010.

There is also an Area meeting held locally, where Programme Secretaries and Visits Secretaries of each Society in the Area (12 in our Area) to discuss the previous year's lectures. We now have a computer list of all lecturers, lectures and their marks since the inauguration of Bookham DFAS for all the Societies in the Area, which can be a useful reference.

Having mentioned all the help and information one has to support the Programme Secretary, our Committee asks that one of our members volunteers to shadow me through 2010 and then take over in 2011 as Programme Secretary for the following three programmes. It is an extremely interesting job, meeting people in NADFAS and the arts and we will do all we can to support you. Please do contact me.

Pam Wilson Programme Secretary

Visits and Trips

One of our members, Bronwen Mills who is a blue badge Guide, took a group to Romney Marshes in Kent. We visited two medieval churches in the morning and, after an excellent pub lunch, we went to Rye where we visited Lamb House and walked around this rather picturesque town.

Bronwen gave a running commentary which was crammed with fascinating facts – a great day out.



Brooklands Church Font Photo Derek Simmonds

Henry Moore lived at Hoglands for over 40 years and the house has been restored exactly as he left it, full of artefacts and the odd Picasso!! The house guides were a mine of information and most enthusiastic. After a tasty pub lunch we were taken on a tour of the extensive grounds and studios where examples of his sculptures and tapestries were displayed. Even if you were not a fan of modern art it was a very worthwhile visit.

Although popular there has been a somewhat disappointing take up in 2009 one visit had to be

cancelled and several others only had twenty plus members on the coach, the Committee have decided to reduce the number of trips next year.



Henry Moore's House

Photo John Cook

We have retained the three perennial visits: Slyfield House on Sunday 9th May, the London Walk on Monday 5th July visiting Fishmongers Hall, and the Stanley Picker Gallery on Wednesday 14th July as these have strict limits on the number of visitors.

We have tried to link visits to the lectures, hence the trip to Salisbury Cathedral in April and the overseas trip to Barcelona in September when we will be able to see some of Gaudi's work.

Our short haul trip in June takes us to Liverpool and Chester with Bowens Coaches.

Full details of the holidays can be obtained from John Tiffney our Visits Organiser.

John Tiffney Visits Secretary

MEMBERSHIP

The attraction of the Society to local residents is still very buoyant. Membership is at capacity and there is a waiting list of 34 people and this is growing monthly.

There are still a few members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 2010 but they are in the minority, and I would like to thank the members who in most cases have paid promptly and on time, which helps me in my returns to Head Office.

More and more members are giving me their email addresses and the cooperation of members is much appreciated. *Please remember however to notify me when you change your Email address;* as 'non deliverable' Emails delay our communications to you. More and more information will be issued in this format

Martin V. Kent Membership Secretary

WEBSITE

The website continues to flourish under the watchful eye of Bob Evans. It has now passed the 4000th visitor mark. The Notice Board link gives information about popular visits, exhibitions and study days from the East Surrey area and other NADFAS groups. They are added as soon as they are received to give members the best possible chance of gaining a place. Photo albums from visits are a new innovation. Bob has begun using the site as an archive for the Society and is adding materials; all past Newsletters, for example.

Design John Cook