



# News

# LETTER

Issue 5, Spring 2005

Bookham Decorative & Fine Arts Society

### Wine and Nibbles in July

Following the pattern of previous years we are planning to offer all members a glass of wine or soft drink after the lecture on the 26th July. These occasions are a popular opportunity for members to socialise and in particular to meet new members of the Society. Please note that there will be tea/coffee before the meeting as usual.

### Bus 4 U

This is an experimental door-to-door bus service introduced by Surrey County Council in Bookham and Fetcham on a 6 month trial basis. It operates on Tuesday evenings so it would enable members to attend meetings without resorting to the car. Telephone 01730 815518 to book a journey, it will cost £2 per trip.

### Microphones

The BCA kindly arranged a demonstration of the public address system for the several Societies which use the Old Barn Hall regularly. Copious notes were taken and the complex system was shown to work efficiently provided no-one touches the pre-set controls! We have now invested in our own rechargeable battery to minimise the risk of the lecturers' microphone expiring half-way through the lecture (as happened in February).

### Registration

Please ensure that you do register as you come into the Hall as it is an important Health and Safety/Fire precaution that we know exactly who is at each lecture in the event of needing to evacuate the Hall in an emergency.

### Registration/Refreshments Rotas

We are very grateful to all Members who take a turn on our Monthly Rotas - please try to arrange your own replacement with someone else on the list or telephone our Secretary Bunty Chapman so that she can make the necessary arrangements.

## The Annual General Meeting

Over 130 members attended the AGM in March. The essential business was completed in the presence of Rita Berry the East Surrey Area NADFAS Chairman. Michael Atkins presented the Annual accounts for 2004 which were duly accepted without question. The Chairman thanked Jill Verco for her contribution as Assistant Visits Secretary and stressed the importance of recruiting a Vice Chairman and a Treasurer in anticipation of both he and Michael having to stand down in accordance with the Constitution. Two new members of the Committee were duly proposed, seconded and introduced at the meeting - Hazel Parker and Muriel Wheatley. There were no questions and the AGM was completed in just under 10 minutes.

**John Tiffney** - Chairman

## Programme

We are well into our third year of lectures and in January we had the welcome return of Douglas Skeggs who gave us a very entertaining lecture on David Hockney.

In February we had a very unusual lecture by Nicholas Bagshawe entitled "A Dealer's Story - how to make a living from the British Art Market". I am sure that following this lecture everyone would have decided not to become a dealer!

Maggie Lamb took us on a "Garden Tour of Europe" in March which certainly gave us a wonderful look at some of the most famous gardens on the Continent.

For the rest of the year we can look forward to a wide variety of subjects from St Paul's Cathedral and the London Blitz, Beethoven and the French Revolution to a lecture in December by a very well known NADFAS Lecturer, Andrew Davies, on "A History of Christmas Cards, Valentines and Postcards".

The programme for 2006 has now been finalised - that's how far in advance our planning has to be arranged!

**Judy Money** – Programme Secretary

## Membership

This Spring the Committee took the opportunity to offer membership to a further 10 people who had been on the (dreaded) waiting list for some time. Membership of the Society numbers 239 although unfortunately the waiting list is still quite long and growing. We are, of course, constrained by the capacity of the Old Barn Hall and in particular by the size of the area where visibility of the Speaker and the screen is uninterrupted.

**Peter Worsfold** – Membership Secretary

*Change of address– please let Peter Worsfold know, and he will notify NADFAS House for you.*

## Church Recorders

The Group has been gathering momentum since being formed last autumn. Under the leadership of Michael Anderson and Angela Stevens we have 19 members busily collating details of the treasures in St Nicolas Church. We are gaining experience as we proceed and would welcome extra help - please contact **Michael Anderson** 454790 or **Angela Stevens** 456713 for information.

**Members' comments on the visit to the Shriwaminarayan Mandir and Syon Park**

“ A fascinating place to visit, it gave an insight into Hinduism. We rather overwhelmed Wyevale café!

Thought Syon Park was beautiful. Saw rare ducks and duckling by lakeside.

A wonderful peaceful atmosphere - the message was underlined by the unselfconscious courtesy of everyone on the staff, from our guide onwards. Were we really still in England?

Any coincidence in the proximity of two temples? (The Mandir and Wembley!)

“Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Parker, where's Mrs. Parker?”

Interesting that women are kept separate but 'definitely not segregated.'

A really interesting visit and introduction to Hinduism. The samosas were pretty 'hot stuff.'

Breathtaking building, amazing commitment by the adherents and volunteers of the Hindus. Visit it and be challenged by such a different culture.

Thank you for all the hard work in organising the trip. (Maybe a different coach firm? Strange route and bus a bit bumpy at the back but a minor point on a great day.) - Belinda Knight.

A wonderfully inspiring trip. Thank you for letting me join Bookham DFAS's jolly outing. Hope I can reciprocate on behalf of Chichester DFAS some day! - Nigel Brown, Belinda's friend.

An excellent day - mystery tour - brilliant in the Temple - astounding work by volunteers. What is the secret? Does it lie in the sweetmeats?

We enjoyed the Temple - so different to our way of life. Beautiful building and interior.

Wonderfully interesting trip - marvellous building - amazing culture spanning 6000 years. Impressed they were doing skin grafts 2,600 years ago!

The dedication of local Hindus in raising the money and voluntarily building a temple of such outstanding beauty.

The usual well organised trip - a truly colourful trip.

**Once again Mrs. Parker you were a star! It was wonderful.**



**Visits**

**Kenwood and Hampstead** – Our excellent Blue Badge Guide, fine weather and a good Restaurant at Kenwood House all contributed to the success of this visit. There are many treasures in The Iveagh Collection of Painting and the enthusiasm and knowledge of our Guide gave us a better appreciation of them. Gainsborough was well represented if our April lecture has inspired you to see more of his work. The walking tour of Hampstead Village gave us a fascinating insight, into all the literary and artistic connections, including a visit to Constable's house and grave.

**Hindu Temple and Winchester** – Great interest has been shown in these two visits. Your support makes my job much easier, so long may it continue.

**Southside House** – We have arranged another visit to Southside House at Wimbledon on Thursday 1st December, to enjoy a candlelit tour of this eccentric and interesting house. After last year's visit the Curator and his Staff said we were one of the friendliest Groups they had encountered, so we require another 20 equally friendly people! Booking opens in September.

**Jean Parker** – Visits Secretary



Photo by Derek Simmonds

**SPECIAL INTEREST DAY JUNE, 2005**

CANCELLATIONS CAN INCUR COSTS which come out of the Society's funds.

With a membership of 230+ and only eleven Bookham members signing up it was very disappointing and embarrassing to have to cancel the June date on SILVER especially as we had sought and received support from other Societies in the area.

I feel that I may have made the error in proposing such a day so early in the year and my intention is to plan a date for the autumn.

It was also heard said that the charge of £16.00 for the day was expensive? Please remember that Specialists on these subjects charge in excess of £400 per day added to which is the cost of the hall and buffet lunch. The cost of the latter is only the food and drink as all the time, preparation and services are provided by our good ladies in their own time. When all these costs are added together you can see why we need in excess of 38 members at £16.00 per head to cover the outlay.

The selection of topic may also have been wrong for the majority so I put to you the entire following proposal.

Attached to this news letter is a questionnaire on which I ask you to put your name and telephone number and indicate at least three topics on which you would like a study or special interest day to be organised.

Thank you, **Derek H. Simmonds**