



Young Arts Project

Photo Derek Simmonds

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The year has started well with good attendance at the meetings and our programme is again of the highest order. This is the result of careful selection by the programme secretary, following attendance at the Programme Seminar in Kensington Town Hall. I was able to attend this year and what an experience! The would-be speakers set out their stalls to give information, and some present a 2 minute resume of their talks. Fantastic – but very tiring. Next years programme is now being considered.

We have proposed a lunch for Trafalgar Day – 21st October – an opportunity for a social get-together. Do consider joining the committee at Bookham Grange Hotel for this new venture. I am sure that it will be well supported. You will be regaled with tales of Lord Nelson by our after by James Taylor lunch speaker. Accounts of other activities and initiatives in this newsletter show that our commitment goes well beyond the meetings in the Barn Hall to make an imprint of NADFAS on the village and beyond.

Angela Stevens

WEBSITE

It has been a difficult few months for the website. It was hacked at some time prior to January 2011 and Google started issuing notices that it was unsafe to visit. Extensive steps were taken to rectify the problem which included deleting and reinstating the site.

Unfortunately the problem persisted and although Google diagnostics gave us the all clear in February some members had issues with Norton and other anti-virus protection programs. This was eventually resolved and Norton have given us an official 'OK' as a safe site. I am sure the website is now problem free.

The committee page on the website has now been revised following the changes made at the AGM. New members may be interested in the committee archive at the foot of the webpage. This is developing into an interesting history of the society along with the newsletter page which has links to all the previous issues.

You can also see this newsletter in colour!

Bob Evans Website Admin

YOUNG ARTS

The Society made a grant this year to Polesden Lacey Infant School as part of our policy to inspire young people with a lasting enthusiasm for the arts, and to expand the horizons of young people. The children, with help from teaching assistant Angela Jones, designed batiks to represent the school's 12 values. As can be seen from the photo they not only produced fantastic designs but also had lots of fun with wax and dyes. Angela and I were very impressed when we visited the school to meet the children, the head teacher Rosie Macredie and Angela Jones.

Liz Roberts

CHURCH RECORDERS

Now that The St Nicolas Record has been completed the All Saint's Church Recording proceeds at a steady pace; we are now on our 4th category having completed Stonework, Memorials and Metalwork. Our present job is Woodwork. It is fascinating when you look at things in detail to discover all sorts of hidden gems. Who knows we may break the record for the shortest time taken to complete a Recording as I met some others group leaders over lunch recently and anything from 10 to 15 years seems to be the order of the day. Highlight of the next few weeks is our annual summer lunch with our patient partners. If this sounds interesting and you would like to join us, contact Angela Stevens or me.

Catherine Hall

PROGRAMME

The next two lectures are on modern themes; Sian Walters in June, on the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. She will give the history of the Foundation and will include illustrations of the architecture of Frank Gehry. In July Anthony Penrose will lecture on Lee Miller & Picasso whose friendship started in 1937 and lasted until Picasso's death in 1973. He painted her portrait six times and she took many photographs of

him. The lecture will include her photographs and also discuss the relationship of Anthony's parents, Lee Miller and Roland Penrose, and Picasso. See also the August visit.

Rebecca Hossack is a new NADFAS lecturer and her lecture in September will be something completely new. She shows examples of aboriginal paintings from round the world, explains the meaning and how to read the symbols and signs as well as talking about the aboriginal people and her experiences with them.

I expect some of you have seen Andy McConnell on the Antiques Roadshow. He is an expert on glass and I know we will have a very entertaining lecture in October on the history of the decanter to 1900.

Peter Medhurst will conclude the 2011 theme in November his own inimitable way with Patience: Gilbert and Sullivan's aesthetics opera.

As you already know, Jenny Denison is now Programme Secretary and will begin her new Programme in January 2012.

Pam Wilson

MEMBERSHIP

The attraction of the Society to local residents is still very buoyant; we were able to invite a further 14 people on the waiting list to join our Society, making a total of 28 new members for 2011. This was mainly due to existing members leaving us for various reasons and has allowed us to accommodate most of those on our waiting list at the end of 2010. Even so there are already 7 people on this list for 2011 and this is continues to grow.

More and more members are giving me their email addresses and again I would like to thank our members for their cooperation. However please remember to notify me when you change your Email address; as 'non deliverable' Emails delay our communications to you.

janet.martin@talktalk.net

Martin Kent

VISITS AND TOURS

In February, we returned to Westminster Abbey for another magical evening with the Purcell Singers. We had a close up view of the newly restored great Cosmati pavement in front of the High Altar just a few months before the wedding. John Davies reports that a party of around 30 had a most enjoyable visit, firstly to Mottisfont Abbey and Gardens near Romsey. The grounds were magnificent incorporating a beautiful walled garden and rose garden. Originally a Priory founded in 1201 by an advisor to Richard the Lionheart the atmospheric cellarium still remains. The house was taken over by the National Trust in the 1950's and includes the Whistler room, a drawing room with stunning trompe-l'oeil murals painted by Rex Whistler just before the second world war. The Angel of Mottisfont was created by a Russian born artist and set into the outer wall of the Chapel House. We continued on to Wilton

House, west of Salisbury, where Henry V111 granted the lands to William Herbert. A Tudor House including the old Abbey was built and the interior was designed in the Palladian style by Inigo Jones. Highlights include the double cube room which houses a marvellous collection of Van Dyke paintings. There are paintings by Breughel, Rubens and Rembrandt, a gallery of Roman, Greek and 17th century sculpture. Set in glorious grounds bordered by the rivers Wylde and Nadder and with a Palladian bridge, Japanese garden and old Riding School with its Tudor kitchen we could have spent the whole day exploring Wilton.



Photo Derek Simmonds

On Tuesday 16 August we will visit Farley Farm House at Chiddingfold, near Lewes, the home of Lee Miller, to link with our lecture on 26 July by her son, Antony Penrose. There is a collection of contemporary art treasures by their friends and visitors including Pablo Picasso, Man Ray, Max Ernst, Paul Eluard and Joan Miró. The work of these and numerous other artists, writers, poets, sculptors and photographers are exhibited in the house alongside those by Penrose and Miller.

Visits/Tours Secretary

SPECIAL INTEREST DAYS

Special Interest Days aim to look at a subject in greater depth. With smaller numbers, probably 30-40, in a more relaxed atmosphere than is feasible in a one hour lecture, we plan to provide members with opportunities to consider original material. Starting at about 10.00am with coffee in the morning and finishing at about 3.30pm in the afternoon. There will be lectures in the morning, followed by a sandwich lunch with wine, coffee or tea. A session in the afternoon when members might be invited to bring related items for discussion concludes the day. The cost will be about £20 depending on numbers and lecturers' fees which are of course higher for the special days.

We are proposing two a year, commencing on Friday 9 November with a day on Clocks and Watches, and then on Friday 9th March, to explore the culture of the Amish People. They will be held in the Pastoral Centre at St. Nicolas Church, Bookham.

Pam Wilson

Compiled John Cook