



News LETTER

Bookham Decorative & Fine Arts Society

Membership

The people forming the founding Committee were pleased at the response received following the announcement of the proposal to form a Decorative and Fine Arts Society in Bookham.

Initially membership was limited to 180 due to the size restraints at the Old Barn Hall and a waiting list had to be set up. In the intervening months this grew quickly. By March 2003 it was felt possible to increase the Membership to 200 and in April to 220 but this still leaves nearly 50 people waiting. The Committee wish to be able to offer the NADFAS experience to as many people as possible and therefore when applicants are offered membership at Bookham they are asked to relinquish any membership they may hold with NADFAS elsewhere when renewal becomes due.

Peter Worsfold – Deputy Chairman and Membership Secretary

Welcome to the first edition of what I hope will be a bi-annual newsletter for our Society. Inevitably the articles have been written by the Committee Members but we would love to hear from you about visits or holidays, studies or special subjects which would be of interest to your fellow members. We were delighted with the attendance at our Inaugural Meeting in January, and from your comments so were you – so we will invite Douglas Skeggs back soon. Attendance dropped in February, March and April so we have been bold enough to invite another forty people to join us and so reduce the waiting list.

We have a post mortem after each meeting to identify improvements and I hope you will tell us how we can help you enjoy the lectures. The problems with the speaker's microphone and the temperature of the Old Barn Hall should have been overcome. The lecture about Hampton Court was our first experience of a lecturer using two projectors and screens – ably handled by our projectionist Trevor Sokell.

We are deliberately starting with just four visits this year but intend to increase these next year and to arrange a special interest day and a holiday. The Committee you elected in January has been strengthened by the co-option of Jill Verco and Derek Simmonds. We are anxious to ensure that you enjoy the Bookham DFAS as much as we do, so please make your views known to our Committee Members (they all wear badges). We intend to establish our own web site (www.Bookham-dfas.org.uk) shortly and I will be gauging the degree of support for this at forthcoming meetings.

John Tiffney - Chairman



The inaugural committee members pictured from left to right – Derek Simmonds, Jean Parker, Michael Atkins, Judy Money, John Tiffney, Jean Atkins, Peter Worsfold, Gill Verco and Catherine Macartney.

Please make a note of –

Registration – please ensure you register before the meeting – it's essential for Health and Safety and helps to monitor attendance levels.

East Surrey Area Study Day – 20th September at Painshill Park, Cobham on 'Venice and the Venetians' – details on the notice board at the monthly meeting.

Holiday 2004 – 21st to 24th May to Worcester. Full details in September, bookings start in October.

The Society is intending to develop Members' interests in Heritage Conservation, Church Recording and Young Arts. If you are interested in participating in any of these activities please contact John Tiffney (telephone 01372 453332).

And finally:-
A big thank you to all members who have helped with registration, refreshments, car parking, projection, flower arranging, votes of thanks and the production of this newsletter.

Future visits

Bronwen Mills, a member of our Society, is a Blue Badge Guide for the South East and she has kindly offered to organize an outing for us on Tuesday 5th August. We shall be visiting **Titsey Place, Oxted** where she is also a Guide and then we will be visiting **Sackville College** in East Grinstead. Details will be on the notice board and bookings will open at the May meeting.

As part of the Mole Valley Arts Festival we have arranged a visit to the **Fire and Iron Gallery** in Leatherhead where Lucy Quinnell will give us a short talk and conducted tour of the current Exhibition. This visit will be on **Wednesday 15th October** in the afternoon. Watch the board for further details.

On **Monday 10th November** we are visiting **Spencer House** in London where we will be able to view the eight State Rooms which have regained their full splendour after a lengthy restoration. The house was built by the first Earl Spencer and is a fine example of an 18th century Town House. In the afternoon we will visit **The British Museum** for a special behind the scenes tour, to discover more about the history of the Museum and its collections as part of its 250th Anniversary celebrations. Bookings will open in July.

Jean Parker – Visits Secretary

Programme

So far we have had four lectures on a variety of subjects, all of which have been well received. For the rest of the year we have arranged lectures on Jewellery in Portraits, Landscape and Garden Design through the Ages, The Bayeux Tapestry, Art Deco, Liberty's – More a Style than a Store and finally Merrily on High – the History of the Christmas Carol. Hopefully this provides a programme that will have something to appeal to all tastes and interests.

The Programme for 2004 is complete and once again there will be a good variety of subjects for everyone to enjoy based on the results of the questionnaire returned by the majority of members. Full details will be enclosed with next year's membership card.

Judy Money – Programme Secretary