

News LETTER

Bookham Decorative & Fine Arts Society

Church Recorders

The Rector and Church Wardens of St Nicolas Church are keen to have a detailed record of the Church artefacts and treasures. This is a key activity of many NADFAS Societies and will be an important contribution to the heritage of Great Bookham by our Society. Training will be arranged to ensure the recording is undertaken correctly. Please contact John Tiffney 01372 453332 if you would like to be involved with this project.

Heritage Volunteers

Members of the Society are needed to help with the conservation and preservation of our heritage which are tremendous burdens on the National Trust and owners of historic houses and gardens. Polesden Lacey is one of three N.T. properties in our area and the Administrator is keen to develop a close liaison with our Society and to offer training to our members to become heritage volunteers.

Insurances

We have been asked to draw Members attention to the NADFAS Insurance Policy which covers all Societies for Public Liability during meetings at the Old Barn Hall and while members are on organised trips, a copy is on display at each meeting. It has also been suggested that we should ask members for an emergency contact name and telephone number in case of illness whilst attending a meeting or on a trip. We will do this when we renew the subscriptions in September.

Welfare

Now we have celebrated our first anniversary the Committee feel we should take an interest in our Members' welfare. Please let one of the Committee Members know of any member who may be unwell or in hospital – a card or a small gift from the Society might easily "lift the spirits".

The Annual General Meeting

An essential feature of every organisation, the AGM was held on the 23rd March. The business was dealt with efficiently as there was no competition for the Committee positions! Jean Atkins was thanked for her invaluable contribution to the establishment of the Society and Bunty Chapman was welcomed as the new Secretary. We are very keen to expand the Committee and are looking for volunteers to co-ordinate Hospitality, Young Arts and Church Recording. The Accounts were approved without dissent, thanks to our Treasurer Michael Atkins' skilful management – he declined the suggestion to take over running the Country!!

John Tiffney - Chairman

Gift Aid

NADFAS, our national association, is a charity and has agreed with the Inland Revenue that the affiliation fees paid by local societies can be treated as gift aid. Therefore NADFAS will recover basic rate tax on the fees we pay to them (at present £10.25) if members complete Gift Aid forms. NADFAS will recover £2.89 per member and will pay the local society £1.00 for each member. Therefore £10.25 out of your current subscription of £32.00 will be treated as Gift Aid. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, your tax liability will be reduced by £2.36!!

We will be participating from September 2004, in respect of the 2005 subscriptions. I will be enclosing a Gift Aid form with the 2005 subscription request which we will distribute in September. You will need to be a UK taxpayer, if you are I hope you will agree to treat £10.25 of your subscription as Gift Aid, so we will benefit by £1.00 and NADFAS by £1.89 per year. *If you have any questions on this please telephone our Hon Treasurer Michael Atkins on 01372 458275*

Bookham wins NADFAS media award 2004



Sheila Jones the retiring Chairman of NADFAS presents the award to John Tiffney and Bob Evans

At the national AGM in Eastbourne on 19th May our Chairman was presented with the National Media Award for our website. The judges felt that our website "was very professional, and the result of a lot of thought and hard work". In accepting the award John Tiffney paid tribute to Bob Evans whose expertise in designing and maintaining the website was solely responsible for our Society's success.

Young Artists Exhibition 23-24 October

In conjunction with the four other DFA Societies in Mole Valley we have been busy planning for this innovative event which will be part of the annual Arts Alive Festival.

20 schools including most of our local schools have agreed to enter exhibits. The venue is Denbies in Dorking and the Exhibition will be open to the public on Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday 11.30 am to 4.30 pm, so please make a note in your Diaries and come to see the display of our talented young people's endeavours.

Membership News

Since the establishment of Bookham DFAS we have been monitoring attendance at our meetings bearing in mind that the capacity of the Old Barn Hall only permits some 180 people to be seated comfortably. For this reason we limited membership to that number. However, experience has shown that on average only two thirds have attended each meeting and therefore we have successively increased membership which now stands at 230. We were pleased to welcome about 20 new members in the first three months of this year thereby reducing our waiting list to 22. However a steady stream of new applications is still being received.

Peter Worsfold – Deputy Chairman and Membership Secretary

The internet

Our website is being used by an increasing number of "surfers" – approaching 700 visitors since October 2003. As we believe that many of our members have access to the internet we would like to communicate via e-mail whenever possible. We will be asking for your e-mail addresses (which will be treated with the strictest confidence) when the 2005 renewal forms are distributed in September.

Committee Members' Telephone Numbers

John Tiffney	01372 453332
Peter Worsfold	01372 458271
Michael Atkins	01372 458275
Judy Money	01372 458856
Jean Parker	01372 454898
Bunty Chapman	01372 456175
Derek Simmonds	01372 456940
Jill Verco	01372 457034

News Round-up

Oil Paintings in Public Ownership

The Public Catalogue Foundation is looking for volunteers to help produce a complete record of the nation's collection of oil paintings in Council Offices, Libraries, Museums etc. Catalogues of each County will be published during the next five years. If anyone is interested in contributing to this project please contact John Tiffney.

The Magic Flute at Glyndebourne in October

Unfortunately the proposed trip to Glyndebourne will not be taking place as the combined cost of the tickets and coach fare would have been over £60 per person!!

Future Special Interest Day – Silver

Derek Simmonds is hoping to arrange another day at the Old Barn Hall with Ian Pickford who lectured last March on Old English Silver, returning. Details will be on the notice board at the monthly meetings.

Guests at meetings

If you wish to bring a guest to one of our meetings please telephone our Secretary Bunty Chapman – 456175 before the evening. The cost will be £5.00 per person (£4.00 if on the waiting list).

Programme

We are well into our programme of lectures for 2004. Our first lecture on a cold, dark January evening certainly started our year on a high point. Jonathan Hinden gave us a very interesting explanation of the story of Mozart's Magic Flute.

We then had a very informative lecture by Hilary Williams on Dutch Painting in the Golden Age, followed in March by Sara Burn Edwards telling us about Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Our programme of lectures continues to be on a variety of subjects from "the Arts of Bloomsbury" to the intriguing title "the Culture Carriers – the Hitler Exiles".

In the future we will be handing out forms to about six members so that they can give their opinions on the lecture and lecturer. This will be confidential and hopefully will get members more involved in commenting on our talks.

Judy Money – Programme Secretary

Visits

The visits during our first year were well supported and we hope Charleston and the Hampshire gardens will be equally successful.

It was with regret that due to lack of support we had to cancel both the holiday and the Tate Britain special interest day which was a new Nadfas initiative that we were keen to support. We were particularly sorry to disappoint the members who had signed up for these two events. Our original questionnaire indicated a strong response for an 'Arts and Crafts' holiday based in the Midlands. I, personally, had previous knowledge of the area and was happy to do extensive research into venues and hotels, and so with the assistance of a very accommodating tour operator we felt assured that our first BDFAS holiday would be a success. We realise the cost of the holiday may have been a deterrent but it is an inescapable fact that hotels and tourist attractions are often more highly priced in the U.K. than elsewhere in Europe.

We cannot stress enough the need to make an early commitment to any planned visit as confirmation of numbers is always required well in advance, otherwise financial penalties are incurred – as has happened with one of our intended venues.

These additional activities can strengthen friendships and interest in our Society so we want to plan visits that appeal to our members. We welcome comments and suggestions that may help us to achieve these aims.

Jean Parker – Visits Secretary