



# News LETTER

*Bookham Decorative & Fine Arts Society*

### Old Barn Hall screen

You will have noticed the splendid screen which is now used for our lectures. We are grateful to the BCA Committee for taking up our suggestion and accepting our contribution of £500 towards the cost – it was worth every pound!

### Church kneeler

On 18th December the Chairman presented the BDFAS kneeler to the Rector – it was duly blessed and added to the collection of Millennium kneelers used in St Nicolas Church. It was beautifully made at the Grange Centre's Creative Textiles Workshop.

### Wine and Nibbles 25th July

As is customary we will be holding an informal social after the July lecture. These occasions give Members an opportunity to meet the Committee and other members of the Society. There will be tea/coffee before the meeting as usual.

### Attendance at meetings

There was a disappointingly low attendance at our April meeting – it may have been the title of the lecture or possibly the switch to the third Tuesday after Easter weekend. However all of you who attended were treated to an enthralling magic lantern show of unique and priceless paintings on glass – mostly made up to 250 years ago! We were informed and entertained and many of you asked for a repeat visit – what more can one say?

### Refreshments & registration

It is disappointing to report that despite a reminder telephone call from our Secretary we have not always had our full compliment of helpers at some of our meetings. Please check the rota and arrange to switch with another member on the rota – it would be helpful if you could also let Bunty Chapman (456175) know what arrangements you have made. Thank you for your invaluable help and co-operation.

### The AGM

**The March meeting commenced with the Annual General Meeting – a necessary feature of all Societies like ours. Presentations were made to Judy Money, Jean Parker and Peter Worsfold who were all retiring from the Committee after serving for four years. The Chairman expressed appreciation to each of them for their vital contributions in establishing the Society. Michael Atkins presented the Annual accounts which were approved unanimously. The election of Dr John Cook and John Jones to the Committee was confirmed and Tim Cook was reappointed as Honorary Examiner of the accounts.**

**We are delighted that John Cook has agreed to become Vice Chairman and John Jones has taken over as Membership Secretary. Muriel Wheatley is now Programme Secretary and Hazel Parker is Visits Secretary.**

### Honorary Treasurer needed

Michael Atkins, our Treasurer, is moving out of the district this summer so we need to find a successor fairly quickly. Ideally it should be a member who has qualifications and experience of accountancy. Please contact Michael on 458275 for more information on what is entailed.

### Schools Art Exhibition

In conjunction with Ashted, Betchworth, Dorking and Leatherhead Societies we are once again organising an Exhibition for pupils at our schools. The event will be held at Denbies Wine Estate at Dorking on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th October as part of the Mole Valley Arts Festival. We had a marvellous Exhibition in 2004 and this year's should be even better, so make a note in your diaries now.

### Communications

With postage costs going up again we have been hand-delivering the bulk of the correspondence with the Members in Bookham and Fetcham. However, the cost of printing the various letters, reports and newsletters which we produce is significant. If we could communicate by email it would be more economical and efficient. John Jones our Membership Secretary is keen to build up our database of email addresses. Please rest assured we will not divulge our database to any third parties. We will continue to distribute hard copies of the papers to anyone who has no computer facilities. Our own website has been updated recently thanks to Bob Evans and the East Surrey Area NADFAS has re-launched its website and all thirteen Societies are featured on [www.nadfaseastsurreyarea.org.uk](http://www.nadfaseastsurreyarea.org.uk)

### Programme Notes

I have now completed the lecture programme for 2007 having attended a NADFAS meeting where new lecturers were given a brief opportunity to introduce themselves and their subjects – I have booked two for next year which I hope you will enjoy. The NADFAS records for 2004/5 reveal that of the 3,125 lectures presented, 1,105 were outstanding and 1,492 were very good – which is 95.4% of the total and seems to reflect the comments and experience of our own Society members.

**Muriel Wheatley** – Programme Secretary

## Church Recording

Our Church Recording project, which we featured in last Autumn's Newsletter, continues. I would like to have said it "continues apace", but more realistically I should talk of real, steady and significant progress.

When John Tiffney asked if I would do an update for this Newsletter the London Marathon was very much in the news. Thinking about this I came to the conclusion that there were quite a few similarities with what we are doing at St Nicolas. We also, are engaged in a distance event. We need to make careful preparation and to pace ourselves sensibly. Participating together is an important part of what we do and we must not leave anything to chance. Equally it is the finishing which is all important – rather than the time taken. At the end, too, all the effort and preparation which has gone into the event will carry the reward of knowing that one has taken part in something which is well worth doing and which will bring a real sense of satisfaction. In terms of time, with us having started our work in the Autumn of the year before last, we are probably at around the half way mark – in Marathon terms we have reached "The Highway". We, like the runners, are now in need though, of further sustenance and encouragement !

With our project the more people we can involve the quicker we shall finish the assignment. The eighteen of us who are now doing the Recording would still welcome having others join. We would be particularly glad to hear from people who could help with the task of editing and collating the significant amount of material we will have gathered. I can assure you that you will receive a warm welcome. You will be joining a team which is not only very committed to our task but who are getting enjoyment and satisfaction from our work (and who are very much looking forward to our Summer social gathering in June). If you are interested, or would like to know more, please 'phone me (Michael Anderson) on 454790, or Angela Stevens (456713).

**Michael Anderson** May 2006

## Visits for 2006

### The Garrick Club, Covent Garden, London – 11th May

The bookings for this visit have exceeded the numbers we are able to accommodate, however, we shall ask Frances Hughes, our guide, to give us another date at the beginning of 2007 so that those of you on the waiting list will have the opportunity to visit this fascinating collection of theatrical paintings.

### Windsor Castle and Frogmore House – 23rd August

Bookings for this visit will open at our meeting on 23rd May, which is the same evening we have a lecture by Oliver Everett on Windsor Castle. Frogmore House is only open for a few weeks each year so we are delighted we have been able to include this in our itinerary.

### National Maritime Museum, Greenwich – 18th October

James Taylor, our lecturer in July, is a former Curator of Pictures and Exhibition Organiser at the Museum so we are delighted he will lead our tour – which will include The Queen's House and the Old Royal Observatory. Bookings will open on 25th July.

### Southside House, Wimbledon – 22nd November

We are planning a third visit to this amazing house, as we are restricted to 20 members each time. The candlelit tour and supper is highly recommended.

## Visits for 2007

Plans are going ahead for visits to Woburn Abbey and St. Albans Cathedral for next year. Although this year is the 400th anniversary of Rembrandt's birth, we are researching a trip to Holland to see his birthplace in Leiden with a guided tour of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and the Mauritshuis (known as the Royal Gallery of Paintings) at the Hague. Details to follow in due course.

**Hazel Parker** – Visits Secretary

## Membership Secretary's Report

The standards set by my predecessor Peter Worsfold will be a hard act to follow but I shall endeavour to emulate his example to the best of my ability.

A standard objective of any club or organisation is to contain its administrative expenditure. The committee has agreed that I progress the development of electronic dissemination of information. I request therefore that as many of you, provide me with your email addresses. Over 100 have already done so but I still need more! My email address is [jdglmr1@ntlworld.com](mailto:jdglmr1@ntlworld.com)

I hope to have the exercise sufficiently developed to distribute the renewal notices for next year in the autumn. There will be no change for members without email facilities.

The association is at its maximum for membership at the time of going to press with a short waiting list. It is hoped that these people will be included as full members as soon as possible. Until such time, those on the waiting list would be welcomed at any meeting as guests.

**John Jones** – Membership Secretary

## SPECIAL INTEREST DAY 27th APRIL, 2006.

On Thursday 27th April we invited Mr. Peter Field, Honorary Fellow of the Heraldry Society to give us an introduction to :-

**HERALDRY** – We were firstly given an illustrated talk with a fairly light-hearted approach giving some idea of the art and science of heraldry.

**BLAZON and MARSHALLING** – Peter pointed out that this part of his lecture normally covered a six-week period each of two hours, but today he was attempting to condense it into one hour.

Using specially prepared drawings he not only illustrated the correct way to describe the coat of arms 'BLAZON' but went further to show how the arms of more than one party were assembled, namely, 'MARSHALLING'.

I felt that the degree of success of the speaker, the day and the topic could be measured in the outstanding participation of the audience.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Bookham members who attended, also the representatives from the Cheam, Chipstead, Dorking, Limpsfield, Reigate and Woking Societies for making the day a success.

**Derek Simmonds**