



Helping at meetings

So many members offered to help with refreshments and registration next year that we have been able to share the duties out more evenly than in the past. The rotas were distributed at the October meeting – if you are unable to take your place on the date listed please contact someone on the list and arrange to swap. Many more of you offered to help than are listed – we tried to choose members who have not been on the current year's rotas, so thank you for your help – we will probably ask you again in 2006!

Adopt-a-book fund

The British Library is appealing for funds to help with the restoration of many precious books and at our September meeting members voted to contribute £100 towards the East Surrey Area NADFAS group collection – which should enable us to choose a book for restoration and have a commemorative plate inside the cover to record our contribution.

Meeting starting time

The majority of members at the September meeting voted to retain the 7.30pm starting time for our meetings – (a goodly minority supported a 7.45pm start).

Microphones

The microphones do seem to play up with monotonous regularity – the system is part of the Old Barn Hall's equipment and the Chairman of the B.C.A. has asked us to give him a regular report on the system so that some corrective action can be taken – we live in hope!

Using e-mail

My apologies to all members who have access to the internet. I did intend to include a request on the subscription renewal slip asking for your e-mail addresses. I forgot to ask Peter Worsfold, our membership secretary to do this – very remiss of me as I use e-mail every day of my life! We will remember next year – I promise!

Chairman's Report

Judging by the way next year's subscriptions came in your Committee assume that you are satisfied with the way the Society has progressed through its second year. About a dozen members have resigned so we will be welcoming some new members who have been patiently waiting to join. Thank you for offering to help with the various tasks at our meetings – rotas for 2005 were distributed in October.

The November lecture will be followed by an opportunity to socialise with a drink instead of the usual pre-meeting tea/coffee. From the favourable comments received last November and July it seems you all enjoy these occasions – regrettably the funds won't stretch to wine after every lecture!

Disappointingly no one offered to join the Committee – we need some “new blood” next year because the constitution requires the Committee members to stand down after three years and the Officers after four years. So we will need to start the succession planning soon! Please don't be shy – talk to one of the existing committee members about their roles. We definitely need a deputy Chairman from next March as Peter Worsfold is standing down from that position.

John Tiffney - Chairman

Membership

Final figures for the coming year are not to hand as a few members have still to submit their cheques, but the vast majority of members have confirmed their continuing commitment and only 12 have decided to relinquish their membership. We have a total of 218 members so we are able to offer another twelve people the opportunity to join us in January. This will reduce the waiting list to 15 which is a sizeable reduction from the 62 we started with! It is pleasing to record that our reputation means that there is a steady trickle of requests for the waiting list. Please let your friends know about our Society and encourage them to apply for membership.

Peter Worsfold – Membership Secretary

Church recorders

A group of 12 members met in August to hear what is entailed in making a record of St. Nicolas Church. Undeterred, the group have visited the Church with Penny Fleming, the Rector, and are starting the recording process. Michael Anderson spoke at the September lecture meeting and appealed for another 6 or 8 members to join the group so that the work can be shared more evenly. No special knowledge is necessary to participate in this rewarding exercise which will ultimately contribute to the local and national archives of our heritage.

For further information please contact either Michael Anderson 454790 or John Tiffney 453332

Gift Aid

Thank you for returning the gift aid forms with your subscription renewal forms. The money which NADFAS is able to recover in this way will be quite substantial, and we will also get £1 from NADFAS for each member who has signed up, so our funds will benefit as well.



The Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple

Visits for 2005

We hope these visits will be of interest and that they will be well supported. At the moment all the dates are provisional.

KENWOOD HOUSE AND HAMPSTEAD on Thursday 17th March

Kenwood House, remodelled by Robert Adam in the eighteenth century, is gradually being restored but it houses a significant art collection with paintings by Rembrandt, Gainsborough, Vermeer and Turner. There will be a short tour of the Hampstead Garden Suburb and a walk through the lanes of old Hampstead to look at its literary and artistic past, and a visit to Constable's grave.

HINDU TEMPLE, NEASDEN on Tuesday 10th May

The Shri Swaminarayan Mandir is the first traditional Temple to be built in Europe. It is a vast building, constructed without any steel but using Bulgarian Limestone and Carrara marble. There will be an opportunity to tour the building, watch a service and visit the exhibition "Understanding Hinduism".

WINCHESTER on Wednesday 6th July

This historic city is linked with King Alfred, King Arthur's Round Table, Winchester College, Jane Austen's house and a medieval Cathedral which houses both ancient and modern art treasures.

Jean Parker – Visits Secretary



Winchester Cathedral

Two Hampshire gardens

On the 16th July we visited West Green House at Hartley Wintney which, though not connected with Gertrude Jekyll, exemplified modern garden design in a way she would have understood. The 18th century house is now owned by The National Trust and has the dubious distinction of having been the target of an IRA bomb.

Mrs Abbott, the lessee, and former director of The Sydney Opera House welcomed us with coffee and cake and explained her approach to garden design.

Lunch was taken in Hartley Wintney before moving on to Upton Grey Manor which has a Jekyll designed garden that has been rescued from neglect. The owner Mrs Rosemary Wallinger started in 1974 with little knowledge of horticulture and plans retrieved from the United States. Thirty years on restoration is virtually complete.

The main garden is terraced with extensive borders and a wild flower meadow in front of the house. Mrs Wallinger is certainly "hands on", she could not be found when we arrived but eventually emerged from a herbaceous border!

Derek Parker

Young artists' exhibition

Denbies vineyard was the venue for our exhibition on 23rd and 24th October. Students from 18 schools displayed 125 paintings, sculptures, ceramics, and collages. Nearly 800 people came to see the exhibits.

Despite the awful weather it was a tremendous success and we received lots of complimentary comments about the artists' work and pleas to organise another one!

The Dawnay, Eastwick Junior, The Grange and St. Teresa's all participated and their pupils have been presented with certificates.

Although the cost of hiring Denbies was significant I am pleased to report that our grants have covered all our costs.

Photographs of the Exhibition can be viewed on the website. A comprehensive collection of photographs taken by Derek Simmonds can be seen, visit –

www.bookham-

dfas.org.uk/YAgallery/index.html or it might be easier to follow the link from the home page.

