



News LETTER

Bookham Decorative & Fine Arts Society

Cartoonist at the Dawnay School

Children in years 5 and 6 at The Dawnay School learnt all about drawing cartoons from Ashtead artist Blair Price. The youngsters drew a variety of cartoon animals like lions and elephants and their best efforts were rewarded by signed originals.

Miss Sue Playfoot Head Teacher has expressed her gratitude to our Society for sponsoring Blair Price to spend the day as part of the School's Art Week.

We chose The Dawnay because of the standard of the exhibits in last year's Schools Art Exhibition and made Blair's visit our Young Arts Event for 2005. As a result we might get some cartoons in next years Exhibition!

Church Kneeler

Earlier this year we commissioned the Grange Centre to make a kneeler with our logo and name as an addition to the Millennium kneelers in St. Nicolas Church. I am delighted to report that the kneeler has been finished and will be received by the Rector very soon.

East Surrey Area NADFAS

We are one of 14 societies in the East Surrey area, and one of the smallest in terms of membership and second youngest since formation. We are represented at the twice yearly area meetings, at which we compare notes on lecturers, visits and other activities. Area representatives report on Young Arts, Heritage Volunteers, Education, Training and Church Recording. At the October meeting we had a report on NADFAS by Peter Brass the National Treasurer. He talked about pruning postage costs and the benefits of gift aid, the future of Tour NADFAS, and the importance of undertaking a risk management review to ensure that each society is prepared for the unexpected (your committee will be addressing this next month). We asked him to review the NADFAS database to ensure that only one copy of the Review is mailed to each household! After lunch we had a presentation on how digital projection equipment can produce more professional presentations than 35mm slides. Our lecturers will have to be encouraged into this new technology! In October 2006 it is our turn to host the Area meeting.

Chairman's Report

Thank you for renewing your membership - by now you will have received your new cards detailing the programme for 2006 which I hope meets with your approval.

Lots of you volunteered to help with registration and refreshments and the rotas have been prepared – if you helped this year you will probably not be rostered in 2006. I am sorry that it was not practicable to check everyone's availability when preparing the rotas, so if you are unavailable please try to switch with someone else on the list.

We have strengthened the team of car parking assistants and members proposing the vote of thanks but we really need a third member willing to operate the projector. This would be a great help to Stephen and Trevor who have done such a sterling job for the past 3 years. Mentioning help leads me to make another plea for a deputy chairman. We must persuade someone to take on this role at the AGM next March, so please don't be shy or wait to be asked! We will also need a new membership secretary. For an informal discussion about what these 3 "posts" entail please speak to me or another member of the Committee.

John Tiffney – Chairman

Membership

It is pleasing to report that the vast majority of our members have renewed their subscription, only 20 have resigned due to a variety of reasons but this does, of course, enable us to welcome 20 new members who have been on the waiting list for some time. This has reduced our waiting list to just a handful of people. We are grateful to everyone for completing the reply slips giving details of their next-of-kin in case of emergency and your e-mail addresses in many instances. Membership now stands at 240 although, interestingly, average attendance at our meetings in 2005 is around 140 with the highest being the July meeting (when we had drinks!) and the lowest being 101 at the June meeting. It is interesting to note that we have never been close to the maximum seating capacity of 180 since our inaugural meeting in January 2003

Peter Worsfold – Membership Secretary

Programme

We are coming to the end of another year and we finish in November with a talk by Andrew Davies, a very experienced NADFAS lecturer. He will be getting us in the right mood for Christmas with a talk on "The History of Christmas Cards, Valentines and post cards".

The New Year will commence with the very welcome return of Peter Medhurst who will be entertaining us with "Music on the Grand Tour". For those who remember his visit to us before he sang, danced and played the piano. He also gave the Leatherhead DFAS lecture on Pearls for 'Earring at The Theatre in October.

In February we have a lecture for theatre lovers entitled "Theatrical Personalities", and the year continues with a variety of subjects ranging from Windsor Castle to Petra. There is a wide variety of lectures and we shall once again be given a chance to increase our knowledge on all these different subjects.

Judy Money – Programme Secretary



Church recording

Our Churches are a unique and priceless part of our community life and of our heritage.

NADFAS is very aware of this.

Accordingly they were keen to assist when they were approached in 1971 to see if they could help to fill the gap left by the Royal Commission whose terms of reference meant they only recorded the contents of churches up to 1815.

The consequence was the setting up in 1973 of the NADFAS Church Recorders' organisation. Today there are nearly 200 Groups throughout the U.K. detailing and describing the interiors of local churches - well over 1200 of which have now been covered.

We set up our own Bookham Group last year to carry out a record of St Nicolas Church.

It is a fascinating assignment. We are required to describe everything which is contained within the interior of the Church. Our records are completed round each of the main aspects - memorials, metalwork, stonework, woodwork, textiles, paintings, windows, the library and then, finally, miscellaneous. All of the features need to be described in detail. This has to be done with care and accuracy.

When our record, which will include photographs and sketches, is complete the original will be presented to the Church. Copies will be placed in The Victoria and Albert Museum Library and with the Council for the Care of Churches, as well as with NADFAS.

There are 18 of us involved at present at St Nicolas, but the more people who take part the quicker we can complete our task. It is interesting work which carries the satisfaction of knowing that it is a job well worth doing and which will add to the permanent record which is being built up of churches throughout the U.K.

Why not come and join us? If you are interested please have a word with John Tiffney, (Tel 453332) Angela Stevens or Michael Anderson (Tel 454790).

Michael Anderson

Visits for 2006

The Garrick Club, Covent Garden - Thursday, 11th May

Frances Hughes, our lecturer in February has arranged for us to visit the Club, which is not open to the general public. It houses the largest and most significant collection of British theatrical works of art. Almost every major actor from Garrick to Gielgud is portrayed on the Garrick Club walls, and there are over 1000 paintings, drawings and pieces of sculpture in the collection, nearly all of which are on display.

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich - Wednesday, 18th October

James Taylor, our lecturer in July, is a former Curator of Pictures and Exhibition Organiser at the Museum so he is well qualified to lead our tour. It will include a visit to the Queen's House - Inigo Jones' neo-classical masterpiece. There will also be time to visit the Old Royal Observatory, or as James says 'simply go shopping!'

Windsor Castle

Although Windsor Castle is one of our nearest historical venues which you have probably visited, we thought our lecture in May would stimulate new interest. The visit will possibly be in August as this will give us the opportunity to include a visit to Frogmore House, which is only open for a few weeks each year.

Jean Parker - Visits Secretary



Bishop William Wykeham's Chantry - visit the BDFAS website to see more photos of the visit

Winchester Visit - Wednesday 6th July

On arrival at Winchester in glorious sunshine we were welcomed to the Bishop's Palace by Mrs Scott-Joynt, the Bishop's wife. After coffee we were taken on a tour of the house by three sets of guides who described the rooms and the portraits of the Bishops of Winchester dating back to the 13th Century. We left the palace and walked through the garden, past the remains of the Castle and through the Bishop's private gate into the Cathedral precincts. Once inside the Cathedral the same guides took us on a tour which included Bishop William Wykeham's Chantry which is normally locked.

After lunch we met at Winchester College and were given a conducted tour of this very exclusive boys' school founded by William Wykeham - the old boys are known as Old Wykehamists. Until ten years ago the boarders still washed in cold water every morning and the school had no central heating!

We then returned to the Cathedral Refectory for afternoon tea and climbed on the coach at 5.15 pm - tired but wiser - with the Cathedral filling up with dignitaries for a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the 60th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Another excellent visit arranged by Jean Parker.

Linda Tiffney