



News LETTER

Bookham Decorative & Fine Arts Society

Honorary Treasurer

I am delighted – and relieved! – to inform you that John Davies has kindly offered to take over the Treasurer's job from Michael Atkins. John has been co-opted onto the committee pending the AGM next march.

I am pleased to say that Jean and Michael are happily settled in Nether Wallop, Hampshire and have applied to join the Sarum DFAS.

East Surrey Area NADFAS

In October we hosted the bi-annual Area meeting at the Old Barn Hall. Over 40 representatives of the 14 Societies in the area plus the Area Committee attended and were suitably victualled. The special guests were David Bell, acting Chief Executive NADFAS and Jill Scott Richardson the Sussex Area Chairman.

Helping at Meetings

The monthly meetings involve a good deal of voluntary work – car parking, registration, and refreshments in particular need a rota of helpers. As in previous years the rotas have been distributed – we are oversubscribed so you may have offered to help but will not be needed next year. Please make a note in your diary as some members forgot to turn up!, and if you are unable to help due to holidays or sickness please contact someone else on the rota and arrange to switch duties and let our Secretary know.

We do appreciate all the help which is so willingly given during the year, especially the projectionists, proposers of votes of thanks and the website – all of which makes the Committee's job that bit easier.

If anyone is a computer buff and would like to take over the website, or this newsletter and the other publicity material please contact the Chairman. Bob Evans has completed 4 years in this role and is about to stand down.

Schools Art Exhibition



Photo by Derek Simmons

Mole Valley's Arts Alive Festival once again featured the Schools Art Exhibition at Denbies Wine Estate in Dorking. We had 160 exhibits from 22 Schools and over 850 visitors over the two days. The standard of the exhibits was exemplary and all students and their art teachers are to be congratulated. Our Society contributed £300 towards the cost of the exhibition and all five Mole Valley Societies contributed, as did the Area and Epsom and Reigate Societies. We are already discussing the feasibility of arranging another exhibition in 2008!

Finances

Our funds remain in a healthy condition due to the Committee's careful stewardship of our expenditure. Our income exceeded the budget for 2006 because we increased the total membership in September and we made modest surpluses on outings and the overseas holiday.

Michael Atkins, the Treasurer, produced a draft budget for 2007 before he resigned and left Bookham for Hampshire. We are indebted to Michael for managing the Society's accounts for the past four years. The Committee were able to maintain the existing subscription at £32.00 for a fourth year.

Membership

Our Society maintains its buoyancy and it is pleasing to note that the majority of members have renewed their membership. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances a few members have resigned – we wish them well. The waiting list is fairly short at the moment and invitations to join will be sent out soon. We would like to recruit more members so please tell your friends about our society. Please refer all enquiries to me. (454307)

John Jones – Membership Secretary

Programme 2008

In January we will start preparing for next year's programme. We would welcome any suggestions for topics for which we will find a suitable lecturer. We would like to feel that members are involved in the choice of subjects. It seems that art is the most popular subject so we will arrange at least 2 lectures on paintings.

Muriel Wheatley – Programme Secretary

CHURCH RECORDERS – Our heritage – your help?

The work of recording St Nicolas Church continues, our group is making good and steady progress and we are anticipating the next step in our project. This is the concluding, but critical stage. It is putting together in final form the detailed descriptive work we have been working on so conscientiously over the last couple of years.

It is at this point that we would really welcome having some more members coming in to help. We need people who could assist us in checking, editing, proof reading and collating the final documentation. Those of you who come forward will have a very important part to play in helping us finish our task of completing the comprehensive record of the oldest church in our community – a record of which, I am sure, we shall all be very proud. You will be sure of a warm welcome from our committed group of 18 recorders.

If you are interested please get in touch with Angela Stevens (456713) or myself (454790) – we look forward to hearing from you.

Michael Anderson

Special Interest Days

Special Interest Days allow a subject to be considered in more depth than is possible in a single lecture. We are searching for ideas about topics that might be of interest.

Last April we had a day on Heraldry. Topics from other societies have included Victorian Glass, Photography and Art, Rugs, Ballets Russes, Women Artists, and English Porcelain. One of us wondered about an Introduction to Modern Art.

If you have any thoughts or preferences, we should be pleased to know.

**Derek Simmonds and
John Cook**

Visits during 2006

Krakow 20th – 24th June

Our trip to Krakow in Poland was superbly organised by Jean Parker and John Tiffney who ensured we made the most of our time in this beautiful medieval city which was miraculously undamaged in World War II. We were comfortably installed in the Holiday Inn which was within walking distance of the City Centre where the main Square, even larger than St Marks in Venice, is still the heart of the City – with its beautiful Cloth Hall, fabulous St Mary's Church, and a wonderful atmosphere – with bars, cafes, music and the hum of people's voices. Among our many visits were the University in the Old Town, the Royal Castle and Cathedral on Wawel Hill, the Czartoryski Museum, the magical Renaissance Pieskowa Skala Castle in Ojcow National Park, the fantastic Wieliczka Salt Mine with its incredible underground Chapel and the sculpture of the Last Supper all hewn from crystal rock salt, and Austwitz and Birkenau..... It really was a trip to be remembered and treasured.

Hazel Parker

Queen's House and National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

On 18th October over 40 members visited Greenwich for a guided tour by James Taylor whose extensive knowledge was gained as Curator of Pictures at the Museum. In the morning he presented the paintings in the galleries of the Queen's House including portraits of Charles I and his family, and 18th and 19th century maritime paintings. The magnificent building was designed by Inigo Jones and includes the first cantilevered staircase in this country.



After lunch, during which a few made their way up the hill to the Royal Observatory, we were shown the modern museum. Here there are well-presented galleries devoted to Nelson, Cook and other seafarers. Other displays showed the development of passenger ships and, under the atrium that covers what was a large courtyard, were the intricate masterpieces of maritime scientific instruments.

This is an interesting museum with carefully displayed exhibits mixing the art, science and history of the sea: well worth a visit.

John Cook

Visits Please note that all our visits are bookable two months before they take place. We are very fortunate to be invited to visit Slyfield House Stoke D'Abernon on Saturday 11th May, however we will be limited to 20 visitors – bookings will open two months before.

Hazel Parker – Visits Secretary
