



**WALTON AND HERSHAM
DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY**



Newsletter 2009

Chairman's Report

As you can see from this Newsletter, Walton and Hershams DFAS has had a very busy and exciting year and the proof of this must be that our average attendance at lectures is up 10% year-on-year and our other activities are all well-supported - and we came second in the NADFAS national media competition! Financially we are very well-placed and we have a waiting list which is longer than I would like, but which shows we must be doing something right!

During the year, Diane Ball took charge of Special Interest Days at short notice and is also responsible for the efficient preparation and distribution of this Newsletter. Pauline Varney took responsibility for future programmes, Lindy Wilson took full charge of projection and IT and Hilary Nunn assumed responsibility for our membership activities. David Taylor moved seamlessly and is now our Treasurer and Catherine Carter and Dorothy Clark continue to look after short outings, long outings and Young Arts. Margaret Sale, as Secretary, has kept everything in order and Laurence Shafe, as Vice Chairman, has also looked after our website. Sue Cardy ensures tea is ready after lectures!

Nothing works without a good Committee and we are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and enthusiastic group who have supported me brilliantly when I was "off the air" and have put together such a successful programme both for this year and which - most importantly - looks really good for next ; I am immensely grateful to all of them for their hard work and support. With a team like that, I look forward to 2010 with great enthusiasm.

John Webb-Jenkins

Membership Report

I have enjoyed being your Membership Secretary for a year now and, thanks to the excellent notes I received from my predecessor - now Treasurer - David Taylor, I have had no problems with the IT side of things, so rest assured should you consider following in my footsteps!

The big plus of this post is the personal contact I have with both members and those on the waiting list. Most often this is a request to bring guests or come along to a lecture - something we ask you to notify me about so that we have an idea of expected numbers to accommodate in the hall - those fire and safety regulations - and we ask £5 for each guest. We are exceptionally fortunate in the size of our venue and, so far, have not had a problem accommodating all who wish to attend. People contact me too to enquire about joining our waiting list, usually guests who have attended a previous lecture. This is particularly satisfying as it tells us we are providing an exciting and interesting programme, so please continue to spread the word. By the way - waiting list members receive the same information as full members, but do not receive NADFAS Review.

Hilary Nunn

Report from the Treasurer

As you will have seen from the accounts circulated with the AGM papers, all members should be delighted that our finances are robust. This has enabled the Society to purchase the most up-to-date projection equipment, which many of you will have enjoyed this year. We are also in a position to weather any temporary downturn in membership and, most importantly, we have kept the annual subscription stable since we were formed and hope to continue holding it stable for some time to come.

Programme Secretary



Images for the lectures this year have been enhanced by our new digital projector. The difference was noticed in January when Hilary Guise gave an excellent lecture about Sisley and The Impressionists - she painted the pictures in words, drawing in the audience with her humour. We moved from Victorian Olympians, producing designs for living, to the wonderful Diaghilev's Ballets Russes that co-ordinated music, ballet and costume. Thomas Gainsborough, a painter from his early childhood, was portrayed through to his elevation to fashionable society portraits and the landscapes that he loved so much.

David Hockney, seen as an influential artist of our time, placed the viewer in the picture and played games with the mind. By the close of our 2009 programme, we will have seen sights from America and Japan and an autobiography in pictures of Sir Stanley Spencer.

Pauline Varney

Special Interest Days 2009

In December 2008 Claire Walsh entertained us at our Festive Supper with the "History of Christmas Shopping" demonstrating how this has been transformed over the ages. Sara Lenton hosted our Special Interest Day in March with "The Melting Pot of Culture". This was an outstanding day, charting the development of opera through the ages and demonstrating how successes at the Royal Opera House are staged. As you may know, Jennie Dockerill, our Special Interest Day Committee Member and her husband Trevor, moved to Holt in Norfolk in March of this year and I am pleased to report they are happily settled in their new surroundings. On 22 September we held a Silver Day when Ian Pickford identified members' items of silver and explained the history and showed us how to clean and conserve our precious heirlooms. Our Festive Supper on 14 December will feature Peter Medhurst "We three Kings". The Riverhouse continues to provide us with excellent facilities for our Special Interest Days and we have booked three more exciting events for 2010.

Diane Ball

Tour of Scotland

As you would expect when in Glasgow, we visited two Charles Rennie Mackintosh homes, the Willow Tea Rooms (for lunch) and the School of Art which he designed in his twenties. Less expected was the glorious weather. Opinions of the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh were mixed - most preferring the interior to the exterior. Our visit to Dumfries House was enhanced by huge bouquets of flowers - left over from a fund raising dinner hosted by Prince Charles. Holyroodhouse, art galleries and the Royal Yacht Britannia were also much enjoyed.

Pam Scott

Tour for 2010

Walton and Hersham DFAS is planning a tour of houses and gardens in Northamptonshire in September 2010. The county has many wonderful houses and gardens and we are planning to visit Rockingham Castle, Burghley House, Boughton House, Cottesbrooke Hall and take a guided walking tour of Stamford.



We will be staying at the 4 star Kettering Park Hotel in Kettering for three nights. The price of the tour is £520 per person sharing a twin/double room - £45 single supplement. Dinner, bed and breakfast is included in the price plus lunch at Rockingham Castle and lunch at Boughton House. Entrance fees and private guided visits are included in the price. Travel will be by luxury coach.

Dorothy Clark

Visits 2008 and 2009



In October 2008 we had an interesting and illuminating verger-guided tour of Westminster Abbey followed by a visit to the Cabinet War Rooms. The exhibition gave a real feeling of what it must have been like to live and work there. In April 2009, blessed by wonderful weather, this popular visit to Greenwich proved to be both fascinating and enjoyable. The sea-faring history of the Maritime Museum contrasted with the architectural and artistic pleasures of the Queen's House and the Painted Hall and chapel of the old Royal Naval Hospital.

In July 2009, another well-attended visit was to Salisbury's magnificent 13th century Gothic Cathedral and Wilton House. Salisbury's impressive architecture, the tallest spire and the largest close in Britain, the best preserved copy of the Magna Carta all contributed to an excellent visit. Wilton House, owned by the Herbert family since 1543 and remodelled by Inigo Jones and James Wyatt, has some splendid State Rooms and great works of art. A walk round the peaceful landscaped grounds concluded our visit.

For our autumn visit in October we are taking a guided walk around historic Southwark, including a visit to Southwark Cathedral, a place of worship for over 1400 years, and finishing with a guided tour of the Globe Theatre.

Catherine Carter

Payment for Visits and Special Interest Days

May we remind members that we regret we are unable to accept cash and only cheques for a maximum of two people can be accepted for Visits and Special Interest Days.

Teas after the lecture



Thank You to those who have made tea, or are going to, in 2009. I have been trying to organise the rota for this year from a list of volunteers. Sometimes I struggle a bit to find people for a particular month, so new helpers are always welcome. There is always a 'sign-up' sheet on the notice board. Ideally each person will only do tea duties once a year, although some of you are such well organised teams that it's a relief for me if you have another turn! Don't forget it's not just for ladies - we rarely get a male washer-upper but it would be lovely if any gents would care to join us!

If you have never helped with teas, it's quite straightforward and there will always be someone there who knows the routine, (usually me!). It's fun to do it with a friend or alternatively come alone and make some new friends over the sink! You need to arrive about 1.45pm to help set out the cups and you need to be prepared to stay until about 4.15pm to finish the washing up.

Sue Cardy
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Audio Visual

These last two years have been years of change for the audio/visual team. Once we took the decision to "go digital" our first problem was to find out which would be the best projector for our needs. We talked to people who had addressed the same problem and, having decided on the best way to proceed, we then contacted some of our forthcoming lecturers. As time passes, more and more lecturers are transferring to digital presentations and many have commented on the professional service we give and the superiority of our equipment. We then decided to introduce "Opening Screens". The whole presentation lasts about 7 minutes and is rolled out for about an hour before the lecture starts. The purpose is to advertise future Lectures, Special Interests Days, Visits and Tours. We also include house notices - showing fire exits and reminding members to switch off their mobiles! We were delighted when the "Opening Screens" were voted Highly Commended in the NADFAS Media Awards for 2009.



Young Arts Project 2009



This year Ashley Church of England Primary School in Walton on Thames was delighted to receive a grant of £350 from our Society to enhance the teaching of art at the school. Jackie Stevens, deputy headteacher, took charge of the project and, after a discussion with staff and children, a decision was made to bring the school grounds behind the school to the front in the form of a mural. The intention was to have an immediate impact about the essence of the school and the things they do to make it a rich learning environment.

Nathalie Beauvillain Scott, a portrait and mural artist, was invited to help with this project. The children were involved in designing the mural which shows the grounds developed at the back of the school. This includes the secret garden, the pond area, the vegetable plots and the chickens as well as a child in school uniform. The children learned a great deal about the techniques used in painting a mural and now that it is completed it will also be used to stimulate writing, drama and poetry.

Dorothy Clark

Church Recording

We have now finished recording in the Church of St Mary Magdalene at Littleton, and the record is going through the process of final checking and compilation. We will bring a copy of the record to one of our lectures so you will be able to see what we have been doing these three years.

Earlier this year we had a visit from an expert to look at the Colours laid up in the Church. They are all Colours of the Regiment of the Grenadier Guards and date from Georgian and William IV periods; this visit was of great interest to the recorders working on the textiles section.

We have been invited by the Church Wardens of St Andrew's at Cobham to up-date their NADFAS record; this 16th century Church was last recorded in 1986 and since then there have been many changes and additions. We are enjoying our time at Cobham, another lovely church.



Val Goodhart-Riley

Guests

We're always happy for Members to bring guests and for Waiting List members to come to lectures. Just remember to contact Hilary Nunn, our new Membership Secretary and arrive with £5. For those "on-line", it is more convenient for Hilary to receive notification by e-mail; hilary.nunn@whdfas.org.uk However, you can of course, still ring her; 01932 253560

Membership Card

You will have noticed the small Nadfas Membership card in your Renewal pack. It can be used at certain museums and art exhibitions to get a discount so remember to carry it with you.

October 2009