



## Newsletter 2017

### From the Chairman:

This is my third and final report as Chairman. May I take this opportunity to thank members for supporting the many activities the Society undertook during the year. In my "Letter" to you, enclosed with the renewal invitation, I detailed significant changes to our Society. We are now "**The Arts Society Walton**" (**TASW**). In addition to our new name we had to find a new venue, following the closure of Hershams Village Hall, so it has been a challenging time for the Committee and I thank them all for their hard work. Catherine Carter - Vice Chairman, Sue Hughes - Secretary and James Moore - Treasurer - whose advice, help, and guidance, I greatly value. Lectures organised by Anna Foster have been a great success, providing a varied and interesting programme - from "Maps" and "Ocean Liners", "Photography" to "Sculpture". Next year's programme of lectures is already arranged. The Visits Secretary - Val Woolford - organised terrific outings to places as varied as a "Gin Distillery" and the "Museum of Brands". Pat Crisp has organised interesting and successful Special Interest Days, including "Backstage at the Opera" and "The Romanovs". All such events require research and long-term planning. Your support is therefore greatly appreciated. Tony Collins and his "Tea Team", and Lindy Wilson and her "Audio Visual" crew ensure that Lectures work effectively. The dedication of Margaret Sale and Diane Ball with membership and renewals enables the Society to function efficiently. In addition,

Diane and James Moore undertook a great deal of work for our new website, skilfully redesigned by Laurence Shafe. Together with "Claremont Arts Society" Val Goodhart-Riley and her team continue to be involved in Church Recording at St Paul's Church, East Molesey. Halina Heyworth organised a very successful tour to Yorkshire in May this year. "Young Arts", also organised by Halina, continue to provide "Art Bursaries" for children at the Riverhouse. The Society has also been involved with the "Mount Felix" tapestry at the Riverhouse, as well as materials, research by children from Rydens School, and support for other local schools with national art competitions.

Members of the Committee reviewed our approach to events in the light of changes taking place in "The Arts Society". Their recommendations provide future direction for the Society.

I am delighted that Pamela Scott has been elected Chairman of the Society for 2018 and I know you will join me in wishing her, and the Committee, every success for the future. Pamela has worked tirelessly to ensure that our new venue at All Saints Catholic Church is equipped and organised for our Society. Lastly, can I pay thanks to all the other volunteers who give of their own time to the Society, and to you, the members, for your support. I am sure 2018 will prove to be an exciting year for our Society.

*John Smith*

### Programmes – Anna Foster



Our 2017 programme opened with an amusing and informative lecture The Art and Beauty of Old Maps of the World by Yasha Beresiner extending from maps as early as BC 3000 to Harry Beck's iconic London Underground map of 1931. This was followed in February by Dr James Taylor's Ocean Liner Art: Ships that Shaped our Lives 1800-1950, where he featured the genius of Isambard Kingdom Brunel and reminded us of

the lost age of ocean travel – luxury for some but steerage for others. David Phillips' Income and Inspiration: Financial Secrets of the Masters revealed the financial constraints of many artists as they struggled for their day to day existence. Anthea Streeter fascinated us with her outline of the amazing career of the designer Thomas Heatherwick explaining why he has been called "The Leonardo of our Times" by Terence Conran. Photography as Fine Art by Brian Stater argued that photography can equal and at times exceed traditional forms of art and illustrated his lecture with some memorable photos and images. In June

Christopher Bradley "plundered" the Bardo and Tripoli museums in his lecture The Splendours of North Africa treating us to beautiful examples of Roman and Islamic art. At our temporary venue in July, Dr Sally Hoban shared her enthusiasm for The Art of Enamelling showing us exquisite examples of this ancient art in jewellery and metal ware. In September Caroline Shenton's lecture on Mr Barry's Great Work: Rebuilding the New Houses of Parliament provided a topical insight into the construction of the building at the heart of our democracy on which there is still no decision on the timing and extent of its refurbishment. Our final two lectures, Michael Howard's The Consolation of Movement juxtaposing the works of the sculptors Degas and Rodin, followed by an expose by Rupert Willoughby of the politically influenced planning decisions that blighted the historically rich town of Basingstoke: Basingstoke and its Contribution to World Culture bring to a conclusion a year of wide-ranging lectures.

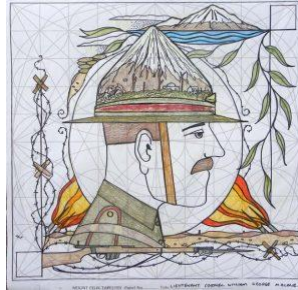
We have another exciting programme booked for 2018 - from the beauty of Celtic art; the portraiture of Titian and Van Dyck; and a search for the real King Richard III to the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao; and the motion picture industry from its inception. And more besides. We look forward to seeing you at the lectures and hope you enjoy the programme.

### **Teas – Tony Collins**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members who have made it possible for you to have a cup of tea and biscuits over a chat after the lectures. Without them a good deal of the social side of our afternoons together would fall a little flat. I think they enjoy themselves judging by the banter that takes place in the kitchen! Sadly, our dedicated team is becoming depleted with some members no longer able to attend our meetings for a variety of reasons, but I thank them most sincerely for their past efforts. So, if you feel you could fill a gap, please make yourself known to me. It's only once a year and all supplies are delivered and the residue removed afterwards. Please give it a thought and once again my thanks to all of those who already volunteer.

### **Young Arts and Tours – Halina Heyworth**

During the past year there were several new, successful developments in the Society's **Young Arts** activities. For the first time, we took part in the National Chairman's Young Arts Competition, achieving good results for two Walton primary schools. Pupils from Burhill School won the 8-10 Years Category, and two children from Bell Farm School were Highly Commended for their entries. Also for the first time the Society has submitted a selection of outstanding works by local A-Level Art students for possible inclusion in the RBA 2018 Exhibition at the Mall Galleries in London.



A Mount Felix Tapestry panel sponsored by our Society and stitched by Rydens' after-school textile club was included in an impressive display at the Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre in April 2017. The Society has continued its involvement with the Riverhouse by funding three art bursaries for primary schoolchildren and is supporting three school workshops in the lead up to Hansel & Gretel Christmas Exhibition 2017.

Forty-two members of the Society took part last May in a very enjoyable **Tour to Yorkshire**. During five action-packed days we travelled across spectacular landscapes visiting ancient abbeys, opulent palaces, picturesque gardens and medieval treasures. We took a nostalgic trip on a steam train across North Yorkshire Moors and were given a memorable private guided tour of Harewood House, one of the foremost historic houses in the

country. The diverse highlights of the tour included the imposing Castle Howard, the seaside resort of Whitby, and the impressive collection of works by Barbara Hepworth at the modern Hepworth Wakefield Art Gallery. The destination of our next **Tour** is Italy where we will explore Turin and Piedmont during five days from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22 May 2018.

### **Membership Report - Margaret Sale**

This year we have seen the rebranding of our Society with a new name and logo and a new venue following the closure of Hershams Village Hall!

The membership has stayed firm during the past year – but we cannot take this for granted. Members can help by publicising **The Arts Society Walton** and by encouraging non-members to find out more about our programme by coming to lectures and exploring our excellent website ([theartsocietywalton.org](http://theartsocietywalton.org)). Talking to your neighbour at lectures, volunteering for the tea rota and helping on the front desk are ways of enhancing the friendly atmosphere at our lectures. In May, we enjoyed

meeting some of this year's new members at our 'Coffee/tea and Biscuits' meeting and we are pleased to see them at lectures, Special Interest Days and Visits. I always have Application forms, Gift Aid forms and other information with me at lectures and am happy to answer queries about membership matters.

I really appreciate Diane's support and all the help given by the 'front desk' team and thank them all. I have enjoyed this year's programme and meeting members at our events, and I look forward to seeing you all next year.

### **Church Recording – Val Goodhart-Riley**

The Church Recording team have been making steady progress at **St. Paul's, East Molesey**. However, the year has been difficult as ill-health has affected several of our group. Sadly, our wonderful photographer had to retire, having been with us since the group started. Those of you who have seen a Record will appreciate how important the photographs are. Luckily, we have found a new photographer; she is very keen, enjoys working with us, and has produced some lovely pictures.

If you would like to visit the Church when we are recording please do contact me, we would be pleased to show you what it's all about, and you might feel like joining us.

### Special Interest Days – Pat Crisp

We have an interesting series of lectures for the coming year. Our Festive Supper is 'Mrs Beeton's Christmas' by Annie Gray, a food historian working for the National Trust, English Heritage and Historic Royal Palaces as well as appearing on Radio 4's The Kitchen Cabinet. She describes the lecture as jolly with lots of booze and food! Booking opens at the October lecture.

In March, we welcome back Mary Alexander with Riviera Paradise - the fusion of art, design and pleasure on the Cote d'Azur in the 1920/30's. Enjoy Mary's enthusiasm for this fascinating period, an intoxicating mix of artists, writers and musicians who created the 'new summer season'.



In 2018 The Royal Academy celebrates its 250th Anniversary. Rosalind Whyte will tell us about the history and some of the founding artists right up to present day. This Special Interest Day will comprise 2 lectures in the morning only, finishing at lunch time. Please tell us what you think of this arrangement. Also, if you have any subjects you would like us to consider as a Study Day please let us know.

### Visits – Val Woolford

Our first Visit took us to the **Brands Museum** and Robert Opie's collection of over 12,000 items of packaging and advertising from Victorian times. It was a trip down the 'time tunnel' as we revisited the consumer culture of previous decades. After lunch we moved to **Leighton House**, Frederick Lord Leighton's "private palace of art", and the spectacular Arab hall and contemporary paintings, including 'Flaming June' on loan from the Museo de Arte in Puerto Rico.

In April, we visited two mills in Hampshire. **Laverstoke Mill**, the Bombay Sapphire Distillery with Thomas Heatherwick's beautiful ultra-modern curved glasshouses, and the historic **Whitchurch Silk Mill**. At the Distillery (pictured) we were guided by a 'high-tech' ticket with a microchip which opened doors, and started recordings and videos during our tour to explain the history and function of the buildings. We inhaled the botanicals to choose our favourites - a guide to the

individual gin cocktail served at the end of the tour. **Whitchurch Mill**, the only 19th century water mill in the UK, still weaves its intricate silk fabrics, used in period dramas, with Victorian machinery. Apart from a fascinating guided tour through the clattering complexity of the looms, the Mill also provided us with lunch in the cafe overlooking the river.



### Treasurer and Audio Visual – James Moore

Increasing the annual membership fee to £40 last year had the intended effect of compensating for increasing costs from a reducing membership. During the year the Committee reviewed all expenditure to ensure that income and expenditure were in line with each other, so that our reserves were maintained. Visits and Special Interest Days were well supported, paying for themselves over the year. We retired our very old computer and projector to a back-up role, and have

used the new equipment all year. At this point, can I again ask both existing and new members who pay income tax, but are not registered for Gift Aid, to consider doing so, you can get a form from me. Gift Aid applies to that part of your membership fee paid to NADFAS\*, (known as the Affiliation Fee) and they share their rebate with us. For the current year the Affiliation Fee is £12.40 per member. You do not need to register again if you have already done so (\*NADFAS' trading name). Lastly, thanks again to Peter Hare for reviewing the Annual Accounts.

For the last year we have been using our new projector and computer, and you will have noticed this was not totally plain sailing. Initially we had a few problems loading lecturers' slides, and then getting the presentation slides to show up on the screen. We eventually worked out that these problems were caused by changes in the computer's operating system, not the equipment as we at first thought. Apparently, we were not alone in having this problem. The projector had a few idiosyncrasies as well, but some productive 'group think' resolved these issues as well. We also had some problems with the amplifier that necessitated getting the



Supplier in to sort them out. We then had to do the whole exercise again on moving to our new venue, and here we must thank Simon Wilson for coming to our aid. Both audio and visual seemed to work well at the new venue, which entails another big thank-you to everyone who helped by storing, moving and testing equipment. We are most grateful to the dedicated team of volunteers who arrive early to set up for the lecture and forfeit their cup of tea to dismantle the equipment at the end of the afternoon.



### [The Arts Society Walton website](#)

Following the rebranding, it was necessary for us to re-launch our website. The Society is indebted to Laurence Shafe who devoted much of his time, ideas, and expertise to create "[theartssocietywalton.org](http://theartssocietywalton.org)". For many years our adopted logo was an outline drawing of Walton Bridge (above - created by Peter Scott) from the painting by Canaletto, owned by Dulwich Gallery. Laurence was fortunate to obtain the agreement of the Trustees of Dulwich Gallery for the Society to use the image of the original painting which you see on the heading of this Newsletter and on our website. We are extremely grateful to Laurence for all the work that he has undertaken, and continues to undertake, on our behalf. We encourage you to visit the website which gives up-to-date information on the Society, its activities and our latest News. We hope that you have found our new (Mail-chimp) emailing system helpful. Please do remember to inform Membership (Margaret Sale) if you change your email address. If you have not been receiving emails from the Society please make sure we have your correct email address by checking with Margaret or any other member of the Committee.

### [Payment for Visits and Special Interest Days](#)

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

### Membership Card

Enclosed with this Newsletter is The Arts Society 2018 Membership Card. It can be used at certain Museums and Art Galleries and Exhibitions to get a discount so remember to carry it with you.

### Guests

*We're always happy for Members to bring guests and for Waiting List members to come to lectures. Just remember to contact Margaret Sale, our Membership Secretary (or Diane Ball), and arrive with £5. For those "on-line", it is more convenient to receive notification by e-mail: [margaret.sale@theartssocietywalton.org](mailto:margaret.sale@theartssocietywalton.org) or [diane.ball@theartssocietywalton.org](mailto:diane.ball@theartssocietywalton.org). However, you can of course, still ring Margaret on: 01932 840583 or Diane on 01784 254792.*

### NADFAS Golden Anniversary

*As you are aware, on 17 May 2017, following a major rebranding exercise, The Arts Society replaced NADFAS as the operating name. After 50 years, the Society needed to evolve to keep up with changing times and to reach out to more people in more places.*

*In 2018 the Society will be celebrating its Golden Anniversary and commemorative events will take place worldwide to mark this 50th anniversary. The Arts Society Walton is planning to hold an art exhibition at The Riverhouse Barn sometime in September 2018 and further information will be available in the New Year.*

### The Committee

As you know from our appeals during the year, we are always keen to encourage new Volunteers to assist the Committee. This year our plea is just as urgent! John is standing down as Chairman having served his 3 years (and 2 years as Secretary) and Pamela Scott has kindly agreed to take the Chair for 2018. I know you will join the Committee in wishing Pamela all the best in this role. However, it is vital that we appoint a Vice Chairman to ensure that the Society continues to flourish beyond 2018.

We are delighted that Stephen Knott, Alison Lornie and Margaret Wicks have joined the Committee but we still need a Volunteer for Young Arts (as well as a Vice Chairman). If you might be interested in taking on either role, please talk to Pamela who will be able to tell you what is involved.

Anna left the Committee at the AGM after 3 years' service together with Halina who has been both Programme Secretary and responsible for Young Arts over the last 5 years. We shall continue to value her contribution as organiser of our Tours. Pat is stepping down from Special Interest Days but has kindly agreed to help with Tours and send out the Mail-Chimp emails. After 3 years, James will be stepping down from the Committee as Treasurer but will continue to work with the Audio-Visual Team. As you can see, joining the committee is not a Life Sentence! If anyone would like to join the Committee you would be more than welcome to come to a Committee meeting or talk to a member of the Committee - look out for our new badges! If you have any friends or acquaintances who may be interested in joining the Society please invite them to a lecture so they can see for themselves.