Dear Members

I hope you agree that our 2006 programme of lectures, visits and special interest days looks most inviting.

The enclosed Nadfas card will often entitle you to a reduction in price when visiting a special exhibition so do remember to carry it.

I hope that our Church Recording project will become a reality shortly. We have contacted a Church in Shepperton.

The NADFAS movement has a tradition of volunteering; I’m presently in negotiation with Hampton Court over opportunities for volunteers. I understand that they will be hoping for stewards to meet and greet. Please contact our Secretary Vivienne Beeston should you wish to become a Heritage Volunteer or become involved with Church Recording.

This year a number of us went to the West Country on an extended visit and I’m planning to organise an overseas tour for 2007.

There’s further information on all these topics elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The setting up process for Walton and Hersham DFAS was complicated and my sincere thanks are due to all members of the first committee. Our membership is now 320. Our new committee members have already shown their commitment and I feel confident that you will all be enjoying lectures, visits and special interest days for several years to come. 

Pamela Scott

Gift Aid

Many of our members have already signed a form allowing us to claim Gift Aid on the affiliation fee each individual DFAS member pays to the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (which has charitable status). Should there be other tax-payers who would like to do this, please contact our Treasurer, or any member of the committee for a form.

Over £3 million is spent each year on Membership Services – especially the Directory, which tells us who lectures on particular topics.

Inside this issue:

| Heritage Volunteers | 2 |
| Church Recording    | 2 |
| Visitors at our Lectures | 2 |
| Our Lecture Programme | 3 |
| The West Surrey Area | 4 |
| Our Website          | 4 |
| CityArts             | 4 |
Heritage Volunteers

Some volunteers are room stewards in stately homes or museums and others are guides. In some instances, volunteers have worked on archives or repaired books.

I've mentioned Hampton Court; it seems likely that their main requirement will be for stewards, some of whom would need to be outside. You would need to know the layout of the public rooms at the Palace and how to get to the gardens or the café. Members can choose whether to volunteer once a fortnight or once a week.

Training will of course be given.

Fairly local to us is the G F Watts Gallery at Compton near Guildford; NADFAS volunteers in West Surrey are currently working through some of G F Watts's papers. They need to sort out documents which range from correspondence with other artists to papers connected with running his household. We could get involved here.

Woking Galleries is now being built and they will have need of guides and stewards in 2007.

Commitment varies; if working on an archive, a group usually meets once a fortnight for perhaps three hours. There is always a member of staff to guide the volunteers. Travelling expenses are usually met.

Church Recording

We have visited a Church in Shepperton with a view to recording the contents for posterity. Copies of the report go to the V & A Museum as well as the Diocesan Record Office and the Church itself. For this to happen, we need people who are interested in describing stonework, textiles, metalwork, stained glass windows, woodwork and a couple of people who will research the history. A photographer is also essential (we have an offer) and so is a Leader. The format is fairly straight forward; there is a pretty comprehensive book available and some 'sample pages'. It helps to be computer literate but only one in each little group needs to be. Groups tend to meet once a fortnight for about two hours.

Visitors at our lectures

Do remember that if you have a non-Nadfas friend interested in a particular topic, you can invite them to the lecture. To avoid overcrowding, you need to contact our Membership Secretary, David Taylor. Please arrive clutching £5.

Waiting List members are also, of course, entitled to come under the same scheme.

In January, we shall welcome some distinguished guests. The Worshipful the Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough of Elmbridge, Councillor & Mrs Graham Winton will join us.

Additionally, Caryl Morley, the Chairman of West Surrey Area Nadfas has also chosen to come to that lecture when our topic will be 'Dust and Ashes: The Beauty of Venice from Casanova to Cavour'. We welcome Jo Walton as our lecturer.
Our Programme

January 12 – Jo Walton
Dust & Ashes: The Beauty of Venice from Casanova to Cavour.
After her triumph as a great Renaissance power Venice fell into a long and slow decline. She became the world’s playground; her reputation as a centre for music, gambling, luxury and sex growing ever greater. Yet, in the midst of decay she produced magnificent Baroque palaces, superb paintings and wonderful decorative arts.

February 9 – Anne Anderson
Art Nouveau: Art & Design 1900.
Anne, whose mother Mrs Joy Hoole is a member of our society, will illustrate work in Brussels, Paris, Vienna and Glasgow around 1900 when Art Nouveau was at its apogee. She will talk about Mucha, Lalique, Guimard, Horta, Gallé, Mackintosh, the Glasgow Boys and the Glasgow Girls.

March 9 – Digby Hague Holmes
Tchaikovsky: Three Ladies of Influence.
Digby is back to talk on Tchaikovsky and his relationships with three ladies. He will again use slides and music to illustrate this intriguing lecture.

April 13 – Hilary Williams
Wren’s City Churches.
Hilary will talk to us about Wren’s city churches, which will provide a useful background to our London walk a fortnight later.

May 11 – Mary Acton
Paul Cézanne & his World.
This is the centenary year of the death of Paul Cézanne. This lecture will provide an exciting opportunity to explore new insights into his development, his relationship with other artists and his role as the ‘Father of Modern Art’.

June 8 – Mark Corby
This lecture will compare the lifestyles in medieval Paris and London showing the differences in style and splendour in this frenetic and interesting period of history.

July 13 – Paul Roberts
The Roman Art of Eating & Drinking.
Beautiful objects together with evidence from archaeological sites will show how the Romans obtained, prepared and consumed their food.

Sept 14 – Elizabeth Rumbelow
Three Romantics: Chopin, Delacroix & George Sand.
The lecture will follow the separate and intertwined lives of three leading exponents of the Romantic Movement, Chopin, Delacroix and George Sand and explore their individual art.

October 12 – Sarah Searight
This lecture is an introduction to the arts and architecture of the Islamic world, ranging in time from the early days of Islam in the 7th century AD to the 15th century. This is a supremely colourful world which is of increasing significance today.

November 9 – Rebecca Drew
Rembrandt the Rebel: his Life, his Times, his Tragedy.
Alone among the famous artists of the 17th century, Rembrandt did not go to Rome. He stayed in Amsterdam always vying with his great contemporary Rubens to be a ‘history’ painter. To earn his living he specialized in portraiture. He died, aged 63, penniless having outlived his wife, his lover and his son but still defiant.
WALTON AND HERSHAM DFAS

Many of you will already have clicked on www.whdfas.org.uk but for those who have not, I do recommend you do so. It has been set up by one of our new committee members.

West Surrey Area

There are 19 DFAS groups in the West Surrey Area. There are Visits and Special Interest Days organised by the Area which we shall be able to advertise on our web site as well as on our pin board. Occasionally we are notified of home or overseas tours by other Nadfas groups in the area and these are pinned up on our notice board. These too will be advertised in future on our web site.

An Overseas Tour

Many individual Nadfas societies arrange home and overseas tours. It has been suggested to me that an overseas visit would be popular. At the moment, Florence or St Petersburg are being discussed as a possible venue for 2007.

A Visit to the Opera

As in previous years, we hope to make up a party of Nadfas members and their friends to go to the Opera. Riverside Opera is performing Verdi’s ‘Nabucco’ at Richmond Theatre from 15-18 March 06 and we shall make up a group for the Thursday, 16 March at 7.30 pm. £23 dress circle tickets will cost £19.50 each. As this isn’t an official visit with a coach provided, you can invite non member friends who can also get tickets at the group rate. So, remember to bring your cheque books in January if you’re interested in coming. We should declare an interest: our Chairman sings in the chorus (the soloists and orchestra are professionals).

Our Young Arts Project

As one of its objectives, NADFAS aims to inspire young people with an enthusiasm for the arts.

We were very proud of the ‘stained glass’ window that the children of Bell Farm School in Hersham produced during the summer.

Ninety children were involved in varying ways: most drew pictures on the theme of Healthy Eating – with appropriate slogans. Many were inspired by the Mister Men characters.

Their art teachers assembled the most appropriate drawings into two scenes which were then reproduced by a professional company on to clear perspex. Walton and Hersham DFAS paid for this process.

These pictures, now resembling a stained glass window, hang in the school dining room for all to admire instilling a sense of pride in those who took part.

CityArts

This is an initiative aimed at London-based 25-45 year olds who have an interest in the arts. They meet three times a year for a lecture by people who are experts in their field. You may have a son or daughter who would be interested; currently it costs £15 a lecture (includes wine and canapés). There are plans to extend the scheme to other cities. A leaflet is on our notice board and further information is on the main web site of www.nadfas.org.uk.