Welcome to you all – whether members entering their sixth year of NADFAS or those just joining us. We’re delighted to welcome Margaret Sale as our new Secretary and Pauline Varney as a committee member.

You might be interested to know that about a third of your fee of £35 goes to NADFAS headquarters. The money goes towards essential services such as selecting new lecturers and compiling the Directory. This lists all the topics available – and the lecturers who cover them; we tend to invite someone who lives reasonably near.

After each talk, the committee tries to assess the Members’ reactions and we complete a form giving our views to NADFAS House. The lecturer also has an opportunity to comment on us!

One of my more anxious moments this year was when many felt a particular lecture was not up to standard. Our committee agreed it must be graded Poor. Laurence Shafe, our Programme Secretary came to the rescue with a couple of paragraphs of points that this lecturer could have included which I attached to the Report.

I’m glad to say there was a happy ending in that the speaker had sensed all was not well and had already re-written his lecture.

Pamela Scott, Chairman

Nadfas will be 40 in 2008

As Nadfas will be forty years old in 2008 it has been suggested that we should mark the occasion. The committee decided to have a British theme for our June lecture. ‘Musical and Cultural Life in Shakespeare’s England.’ Following the lecture, we shall have a slice of birthday cake with our cup of tea.

Inside this issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside Story</th>
<th>Art for Schools</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inside Story</td>
<td>Visits</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside Story</td>
<td>St Petersburg</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside Story</td>
<td>Church Recording</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside Story</td>
<td>Young Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside Story</td>
<td>Area Events</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside Story</td>
<td>Millais at the Tate</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please offer to help John Webb-Jenkins with afternoon teas just once a year 01932 847611 or john.webb-jenkins@whdfas.org.uk

Please offer to help Robin Sutton occasionally with putting up the screen, projecting the slides and organising the sound system 01932 840207 or robin.sutton@whdfas.org.uk
Art for Schools

We gave funds for a pilot “Art for Schools” project this year organised by Nadfas House. The idea was that the eighteen societies in our West Surrey Area would be invited to contribute £100.

The scheme was aimed at schools that have their own Parent Teacher Association which had to provide matching funding before receiving money from us.

Eighteen applications were received and all received £150. Some of the projects were really enterprising – one school bought a die cutting machine and a selection of dies for paper craft projects. In another case, the teachers ran workshops making edible carvings based on the children’s designs.

The schools that applied covered the complete age range.

I do not think many PTAs had previously heard of Nadfas so one of the aims has been achieved and I’m sure the children enjoyed their various art activities.

Visits

The Visits and Special Interest Days have been popular this year. Let me remind new members that we sell Visits and Special Interest Days at two lectures – beginning about 6 weeks before the event. Occasionally an event is sold out at the first month.

May I also remind members of our policy on reimbursement for those who have to cancel an event. If we can fill your place from the Waiting List we do so but if not, I’m afraid we cannot reimburse members.

P.S.

This year we have visited the Banqueting House, the Foundling Museum and Eltham Palace. We also had a guided tour of Legal London led by two Blue Badge guides. A successful year.

Tours: St Petersburg

Our tour to St Petersburg will be from 4-9 September 2008. We shall stay at the 3* St Petersburg Hotel where all rooms will have a river view.

The price will be £1125 per person with a single supplement of £150. This price includes BA flights, coach transport while there, all sightseeing, entrance fees and all meals except three lunches. Two local guides will be our tour escorts throughout.

Insurance is not included. Visas can be obtained for £30 and Caren Saville Sneath will provide full visa support documentation. For the full itinerary please find the separate sheet with this mailing.

We shall begin selling the tour on 12 November 2007.
Church Recording

We are now well into our second year recording the Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Littleton. The Windows Section were fortunate in having a visit from an expert with a vast experience in identifying the glass maker and dating the windows. Those recording the Memorials have enjoyed recording five wonderful 17c floor slabs in the Sanctuary and continue to find memorials on walls and under carpets.

The Woodwork in the Church is extensive, ranging from the 15c to 20c; these two ladies will probably be working for a long time! The Metal-work people have a number of items to get through while those recording the History of the Church visit the London Metropolitan Archives as well as trawling through Parish Notices and PCC Minutes. The Textile recorders recently opened a heavy iron clad chest and found some old and very dusty vestments but also two charming angels probably embroidered by a member of the congregation which can now be seen on the website.

Another puzzle are the Colours – the flags carried into battle which, when they fade or become torn, were often given to a local church.

We are enjoying the experience and will again celebrate with a Christmas lunch - just to show you we are not too serious.

Val Goodhart-Riley

Young Arts : Walton Leigh School

Walton Leigh School is a community special day school for students with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties. Walton and Hersham DFAS gave them a grant towards making a Mosaic of the school logo, which is 'Three Trees'. Mosaic is an exciting medium to use and for children who find painting frustrating it can be very rewarding as every child can contribute using traditional mosaic glass tiles. The art room has a kiln for pottery and there is a selection of musical instru-ments. The school also has its own allotment site at Churchfields Allotments in Weybridge. There is a high staff to student ratio and the whole school is light and airy and has a very friendly feeling.

Adrienne Lumb

Special Interest Days : Christmas 06 and Collecting Antiques

Our 2006 Christmas Event at the Riverhouse Barn began with a glass of mulled wine followed by a delicious supper. Shirley Turner our lecturer, talked about 'The Christmas Story as seen by the Great Painters'. She illustrated her talk with slides and played extracts of perfect music to set the scene and put us all in the mood for Christmas.

Our first Special Interest Day of 2007 was 'Collecting Antiques' with Dai Evans. We had two lectures during the morning. After lunch, a mini 'Roadshow' with Dai assessing the objects members had brought in. He did this with great charm and humour. We were also fortunate to have perfect summer weather even though it was March. Tables were put in the Barn courtyard and we had our lunch outside. A very good day.

Jennie Dockerill
South West Surrey Area News

In June, Nicholas Bagshawe spoke at Farnham Maltings on Philip de Laszlo, the painter. Members were then invited to take a picnic lunch to the house of his daughter in law, Sandra de Laszlo where we saw several family paintings on the walls.

This autumn, 2007, there are Area Study Days led by Valerie Woodgate on Exploring the Language of Art

Next year, the Area is hosting two Study Days:
Saturday 7th June - ‘Old Father Thames': The River in Art. A morning lecture to be given by Andrew Davies at Painshill Park Cobham. Booking opens March 1st. A follow-up walk in London with Andrew Davies visiting the sites featured in the lecture, will be held on Saturday 14th June.

Apparently, some members are anxious about joining the committee because of initial reticence about speaking in public. To address this, the West Surrey Area arranged an informal day, tailor-made for us by a professional who may coach the father of the bride one day and a business man the next. There have been glowing reports of that day despite initial fears of being recorded on video before and after lunch. Other days are planned.

Millais at Tate Britain : Lightbox at Woking

The Millais exhibition is now open at Tate Britain. It was only recently, when about to catch a bus from the back of the gallery, that I realised the statue there is of Millais himself. On the opening day his statue was adorned with a garland of leaves and white flowers.

Millais was the greatest painter and founding member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, which burst upon the British artistic scene in the mid-19th century. He was the most successful British painter of the time with a reputation across Europe and America. Yet for many of us, he is relatively unknown. Judging by the advertising and comments in the broadsheets, he is in for a Revival.

The advertising shows Ophelia, rejected by Hamlet, drowning herself in a stream. I mention this exhibition because I hope a number of you will visit before our January lecture on the painter. If you are a member of the Art fund, entrance is £5.50. For the general public it is £11. Try showing your Nadfas 2007 card too.

I recently visited the Lightbox at Woking – the new gallery and museum built on an incredibly narrow piece of land between the canal and the Peacock Centre. The building itself is most impressive with picture windows at one end while the building at first and second floor level overhangs the canal. Designed by Marks Barfield Architects – who also created The London Eye - the rectangular shaped building is clad in silver and gold anodised aluminium tiles and cedar wood.

The opening exhibition features ‘Wallace & Gromit’. From February there will be an exhibition of Modern British Art including Elisabeth Frink, Henry Moore, William Roberts and Barbara Hepworth. They hope to attract temporary exhibitions of paintings from the major galleries.  

P.S.