

### Audio Visual

As always, the team has worked hard to help make the lectures visually and audibly successful. We now have a portable microphone which can be used for questions from the floor when it is appropriate. The intermittent audio problem we have suffered from in recent months has now been identified and repaired so we can look forward to better audio quality in the future. We are most grateful to all members of the team who volunteer their time to set up before the lecture.

*Lindy Wilson*

### 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.

### 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@whdfas.org.uk](mailto:margaret.sale@whdfas.org.uk) or [diane.ball@whdfas.org.uk](mailto:diane.ball@whdfas.org.uk). However, you can of course, still ring Margaret on: 01932 840583 or Diane on 01784 254792.

### Young Arts



The Committee decided to move from supporting Primary schools to a Secondary School this year. Qualifying schools were sent a pro-forma and asked to apply for support for a project. The project proposed by Heathside School in Weybridge was chosen unanimously as it appeared to support a large number of pupils and the finished product would be seen by the whole school community.

The project entailed workshops, led by Donagh Curwen (pictured with students from Heathside school), building large birds which represented the school's Houses. The birds have now been hung from the ceiling of the school hall for all to see. The whole of Year 7 were involved in the project. One boy told me that he had never liked Art but that this project had been really interesting - it makes it all worthwhile! WHDFAS donated £600 to cover the costs of the workshops and resources.

Plans are in hand for the next project with Painshill Park to provide resources for handicapped children.

*Lindy Wilson*

### 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.**

As you know from our many appeals during the year, we are keen to invite new volunteers to join the Committee. We are currently without an appointed Treasurer and some members will have completed their three years in office and will be standing down. If anyone is interested in joining us, you would be more than welcome - why not come to one of our meetings and see for yourself!

*The Committee*



WALTON AND HERSHAM  
DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY



## Newsletter 2013

### Chairman's Report

This year we proudly celebrated the tenth anniversary of the founding of our Society and at our May meeting, I was delighted that members of the original committee were kind enough to make the teas. They chatted with the members and gave us a valuable insight into the trials and tribulations of creating a new society. It is thanks to their efforts that our Society was successful from the first meeting and has gone from strength to strength ever since. Our diverse lecture programme and wide range of events have continued to attract many people interested in the arts and their membership fees and gift aid have enabled us to help save important art works and support young arts in local schools.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee and other volunteers who have made it possible. There are many interesting activities run by committee members and if you are interested in joining the committee then we can arrange a trial period. You will attend meetings for a few months on a no commitment basis to see what is involved. If you would then like to join, we provide a one-day NADFAS training course and a committee member will help you during your first year. To find out more please contact me on any lecture day or email me at [chairman@whdfas.org.uk](mailto:chairman@whdfas.org.uk). As committee membership is limited to three years, we need about four new committee members each year.

This year I would like to give special thanks to David Taylor who has tirelessly and professionally managed our finances for the last five years. Two years ago, he

agreed to stay in the post for the maximum allowed by our Constitution and so we now urgently need to find a replacement. Halina Heyworth has prepared an exciting programme of lectures for next year ranging from Northern Renaissance art to David Hockney and Halina has not forgotten the other arts with lectures on furniture, silk weaving, opera and architecture. Val Woolford organised trips this year to Bletchley Park, Uppark House and in October a guided tour round historic Spitalfields. Pat Gamba arranged a very successful day with David Battie from Antiques Roadshow, a day on Art Deco in September when members were invited to bring items for discussion, and this Christmas we will have a magic lantern show that will provide a tantalising glimpse of Victorian Christmases. Lindy Wilson has done an excellent job setting up a Young Arts project in Heathside School to encourage local children to explore the arts and next year we are expanding our investment in young art.

We are considering re-introducing overseas trips lasting a few days. We discontinued them a couple of years ago because insufficient members expressed an interest. If you would like us to reinstate the trips, please let any committee member know your views.

Finally, I would like to welcome back old friends and encourage new members to go on the visits and attend the special interest days. I hope to see you all participating in the exciting year ahead.

*Laurence Shafe*

### Membership Report

In this tenth anniversary year, it has been most encouraging to see so many members and guests attending our lectures. We really appreciate it when members on the Waiting List and members bringing guests give us advance notice; this helps us to keep an eye on numbers at Hershams Village Hall.

Waiting List members receive the same information as full members, but do not receive *NADFAS Review*. Once we have processed the subscription replies, we hope to be able to offer full membership to those at the top of the List - please be patient.

If you have not already done so, and qualify as a UK taxpayer, please consider Gift Aiding your subscription - I always have extra forms with me at lectures!

I have enjoyed my first year as Membership Secretary, meeting you at lectures and building up a healthy Waiting List. My thanks go to my fellow Membership Secretary, Diane Ball, and to our predecessor Tony Collins for their support, as well as to all those who regularly help on the 'front desk'.

*Margaret Sale*



### Report from the Treasurer

We remain a vibrant Society and are blessed with a cushion of reserves to meet the future. We dipped into them this year to reduce our annual subscription to £30 as a celebration of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary; next year we return to the £35 which has been at the same level since the Society was formed. We have maintained our support for Young Arts and Church Recording.

Part of your subscription is forwarded to NADFAS, which attracts Gift Aid. NADFAS shares this rebate with us and each year we have put this towards

saving works of art for the nation and similar projects. We have so far received £1,700 back from NADFAS.

If you have already filled in a WHDFAS Gift Aid form you do not need to do so again. If not, and you are eligible because you pay enough UK tax, then please ask me for a form.

Finally, I would like to thank Barry Wilkinson for examining our accounts.

David Taylor

### Programme Report



Gustav Klimt, *Mäda Primavesi*  
Dr Scott Anderson - *Gustav Klimt and the Vienna Secession*

This year's programme of lectures has delivered several outstanding speakers and attracted higher than usual attendance numbers. Among the most memorable lectures was a richly illustrated talk by Sian Walters about the stunning, and often disturbing, work of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Mexican painter, Frida Kahlo. Equally engaging was a lecture on art fakes and forgeries delivered by Malcolm Kenwood, who brought years of personal experience as a detective to reveal some of the secrets of the criminal art world. John Ericson's wide-ranging March lecture on the Shakers stimulated a lively questions- and-answers session, and in July Dr Rosamund Bartlett presented a superb overview of the history of the Russian opera.

Later this year we shall be acquainted with the best examples of Modernist architecture in Britain and with the up-and-down fortunes of Huguenot master silk weavers who settled in London's Spitalfields centuries ago; we shall also retrace Turner's steps along the River Thames.

Next year's programme will take us from the stillness and contemplation of the great Flemish artist Rogier Van der Weyden, through the tragic tale of Orpheus and Eurydice, to the dramatic art of Caravaggio, the most original and influential Italian

painter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. We shall also venture into the secretive world of Freemasonry, visit the splendours of great Elizabethan houses, and spend an entertaining hour with the sights and sounds of the British seaside looking at photographs, posters and saucy postcards. We shall end the year with a review of the best British landscape paintings.

I hope that you will enjoy this variety and that you will share with us your comments and suggestions for future lecture subjects.

Halina Heyworth

### Teas



I tried to say 'Goodbye' last year; said I could no longer do,  
A year went by and nothing changed so there I was, Guess Who?  
I thought that I had found someone who'd take the place of me  
Someone who would be in charge and organise the teas.  
But sad to say that person had too much on their plate  
Back to me again, it seemed teas were my fate!  
So I said I'd carry on; at least for just a while  
And suddenly someone stepped up with news that made me smile.  
Good old Tony Collins like a knight in shining armour  
Said that he would do the job; he really is a charmer!  
I'd like to thank the faithful few who I nagged to make the teas,  
But now it's time for other folk so  
VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!

Sue Cardy

### Special Interest Days

Alphonse Mucha (1860-1939), *Job*, 1898



Last September we had a fascinating day at the Riverhouse Barn when Andrew Davies 'journeyed' up and down the country to talk about "English Parish Churches" - at great speed and without notes - commenting on regional diversity and with amusing anecdotes! At Christmas, Hilary Guise battled through freezing fog to deliver a fantastic lecture on "The Ox and the Ass - Silent Watchers at the Crib" pointing out the significance of these beasts appearing in nearly every Nativity painting on record. At the Special Interest Day, in March, we welcomed David Battie (recovering from an accident and following many operations). He told us about "A Day in the life of The Antiques Roadshow"

which not only included interesting tales of the various venues, at home and abroad, but also about the experts and presenters over the 35 years since it first appeared on BBC television. Members were invited to bring their treasures for identification and David insisted on commenting on every single item - there were surprises and disappointments but it was a memorable day.

I hope the rest of the year is as successful with Peter Darty on Art Deco in September, Philip and Rosemary Banham for our Festive Supper with "A Victorian Christmas through the Magic Lantern". In March 2014 we will welcome Professor Clyde Binfield to talk about 'Sir Edward Lutyens' and the return of Edward Saunders in September when he will tell us about the Extraordinary Life of Sir Joseph Paxton. We look forward to your company!

Pat Gamba

### Church Recording

The Church Record of St Nicholas in Shepperton was presented to the Vicar and congregation at a Sunday service in July. Nineteen of us turned out on this very hot day and we were made most welcome. After the service there was an opportunity for the congregation to look at the Record and meet the recorders - they were very impressed and grateful for the work done on behalf of their church. We are now well into

recording at St Peter's West Molesey, a small church with some interesting artefacts and history.

Our Church crawl this year will take us to Hampshire. We will visit Sandham Memorial Chapel which houses Stanley Spencer's epic memorial to the dead of the Great War which covers all the walls of the chapel, and then on to another three churches.

Val Goodhart-Riley

### Visits 2013



Our final visit in 2012 was a London Walk to include Clerkenwell, St John's Gatehouse, St Bartholomew's Church and Smithfield.

This year, in April we went on a fascinating visit to Bletchley Park (pictured). We had a briefing about the wartime history of the Park and its importance in code breaking and Intelligence work. This was followed by a tour of the huts and exhibitions to see the Enigma machine, Colossus and the Bombe - forerunners of modern computers developed at Bletchley Park.

After lunch we were free individually to explore the museums, installations and a 3D cinema, and to enjoy the grounds and lake, before boarding the coach to return home, aware that one day's visit was not long enough.

Thursday, 18th July was a wonderful sunny summer's day when we went to Uppark House high on the South Downs with fabulous views from Goodwood to the Isle of Wight and the Channel. The house with its 18th Century collection of paintings, fabrics, furniture and porcelain from the family's Grand Tours, in their original setting - a time capsule, little changed from when it was built in the 1690s. This is particularly amazing as the house was gutted by fire in 1989. The ground floor and basement, with its historic kitchen and the famous dolls-house, have been meticulously restored to retain their special quality of faded grandeur leaving few tantalising traces of the fire.

We also had a guided tour of the grounds which are steeped in history.

On 17 October a London Walk - Spitalfields, Christ Church and Dennis Severs' House in Folgate Street. This follows Sue Jackson's talk on the Huguenot Silk Weavers who will also be our guide for the day.

Val Woolford