



WALTON AND HERSHAM  
DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

## Newsletter 2015

### Chairman's Report - John Smith

In my first year as Chairman, I wish to pay thanks on your behalf to the Committee and other volunteers who ensure our members are able to benefit from an exciting programme.

Together with Claygate DFAS, we have a long-running programme of Church Recording, with our representation being led by Val Goodhart-Riley. Many thanks to James Moore who became our Treasurer at last year's AGM. This year our "Young Arts" funding is providing a "Welcome Mosaic" at Bell Farm School in Walton. Next year's Programme of lectures is now available, and the Programme Secretary, Anna Foster, is already putting together a programme for 2017. Val Woolford, our Visits Secretary, has arranged successful outings to Hever Castle, Stowe House and Gardens and visits to London in February and October.

Pat Gamba steps down from the Committee after our AGM. Together with Pat Crisp, our new Special Interest Day Secretary, they have organised very successful Study Days. May I take this opportunity to thank Pat Gamba for all her work for the Society.

Tony Collins, and his "Tea Team", together with Lindy Wilson and her Audio Visual crew, ensure that Lecture days work very effectively. The dedication of Margaret Sale and Diane Ball in dealing with membership and renewals (including the Newsletter, Programme card and sticky labels) enables the Society to function efficiently.

Particular thanks to Catherine Carter for her support as Vice Chairman and to Halina Heyworth, who in May this year, organised a very successful tour of Liverpool and Manchester. In undertaking Tours again, we started with the UK to break us in gently but in May 2016 will be venturing further afield to Dresden.

Lastly, but by no means least, my particular thanks to you, the members, who enthusiastically enjoy and take part in all the events which the Society arranges. We look forward to another exciting year in 2016.

John Smith

### Membership Report

Thank you to everyone who renewed their subscriptions by 1<sup>st</sup> October - it gives us the opportunity to offer full membership to those on the Waiting List. This year we have been able to offer faster membership to members of NADFAS moving into this area from elsewhere.

In February, we had a good response to our 'coffee/tea and biscuits' meeting with this year's new members and we are pleased to see them at lectures, Special Interest Days and Visits. Average attendance at lectures varies between 40% and 55% of the membership and we are usually able to accommodate visitors, so do feel free to invite family and friends to lectures - with prior warning if possible! During next year I would like to build up the Waiting List so that

we can maintain our membership numbers. Members can help by publicising WHDFAS and encouraging non-members to find out more about our programme by coming to lectures and exploring our excellent website. 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.

Margaret Sale

### Church Recording

We have now finished recording in the Church of St. Peter at West Molesey and the checking, entering photographs and compilation is almost finished. In October we started recording St. Pauls, East Molesey, a Victorian church in the Gothic style. The Church Crawl this year is going to take us to the Winchester area, the highlight being St. Cross, a Norman almshouse Church. Please contact us if you would like to find out more about Church Recording.

Val Goodhart-Riley



## Report from the Treasurer

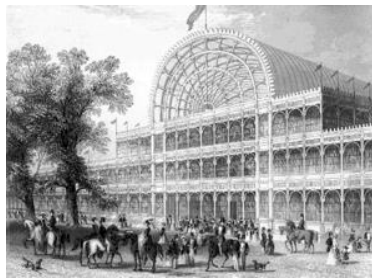
During the year our programme of visits and Special Interest Days was again well supported, with the result that they were self-funding. Similarly annual fees, from our comparatively large and stable membership, were sufficient to cover the costs of both lecturers' fees and hire of the Hershams Village Hall for our monthly meetings. So once again we have had a very successful year, with a diverse range of events, but without the need to draw on reserves. Income was also sufficient to continue our support of Young Arts and Church Recording projects.

Gift Aid is applicable to that part of your membership fee paid to NADFAS, and they share their rebate with us. It is a very useful addition to our income. So if you pay income tax, and have not already registered for Gift Aid, I would like to encourage you to get a form from me. If you have already registered, you do not need to do so again.

My grateful thanks once again to Barry Wilkinson for auditing the Annual Accounts on our behalf.

James Moore

## Special Interest Days



2015 started with "The Gardener and the Greenhouse, The Extraordinary Life of Sir Joseph Paxton", by Edward Saunders, tracing Paxton's life from helping his gardener father, his work at Chatsworth to his involvement with the railways and the building of Crystal Palace. Our Christmas Supper was "The History of Stained Glass Seen through the Christmas Story" by Diana Lloyd. Diana covered the history of stained glass through the use of colours, methods used and the complexity of the designs, highlighting the significance and history of stained glass. In March, Mary Alexander "walked us" through New York, conveying her love of the city with stories and illustrations of this vibrant place and left us feeling, when can we go?!

Our Study Days conclude with Andy McConnell from the Antiques Road Show "Five Thousand Years of Glass" and in December our Christmas Supper is "Oh

Yes it is" - History of Pantomime, by Jane Tapley, this will definitely get us in the Christmas mood.

2016 commences with Brian MacDonald on "Tribal Rugs, Treasures of the Black Tent". A journey through the history of weaving in the Nomadic tribes of the Near East, Persia and Central Asia. By special request, we have booked our September event earlier than previously in the hope that more members are able to attend. Jacqui Ansell will look at "Dress at the Court of George II & IV and Queen Victoria". Our Christmas Supper will be "Wonder Worker & the Art of Illusion" by Bertie Price who will give us a 'wacky' talk with conjuring and tricks to get us in the mood for Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you at our Special Interest Days and if there are any subjects you would like to be featured please let us know.

Pat Crisp

## Teas



The time has come for me to plea - for folk to help in making tea  
We have a team of splendid chums who turn up when their time it comes  
But we would like to spread the fun - and so this team's for everyone.

So, if you feel you'd like to try it (you get to have first choice of biscuit)!!  
Both genders are indeed most welcome - Singles, pairs and quadruplums??

If you feel it's not for you - there's nothing more for me to do  
But thank my team of happy tea-ers - for all their help throughout the years  
Without you the talks would end quite flat - with not a chance to have a chat  
Thank you again for filling cups - and setting up and washing ups

Tony Collins

## Programme Report



Joseph Mallord William Turner, South-West View of a Gothic Abbey  
(James Bolton lecture)

With remembrance of the Great War still in our minds, the year started with Charles Harris's look at posters from that era, providing mass communication to aid recruitment, stimulate the economy and demonise the enemy. In contrast we enjoyed Dr Celia Fisher's lecture following the way artists across the centuries have illustrated Dante's Divine Comedy and his journey to Heaven. Zara Fleming entranced us with her lecture on the image of the tiger in Asian art, both honoured and feared and now at risk of extinction. As Spring approached we welcomed James Bolton, who examined the changes in gardens and landscaping through William Kent, Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton and

### Tours



After a gap of six years the Society held a five-day action packed tour to Liverpool and Salford; our itinerary included visits to Port Sunlight and two of the finest timber framed houses in England - Little Moreton Hall and Speke Hall.

Our excellent Blue Badge guide introduced us to Liverpool's famous landmarks - from Albert Dock and the Royal Liver Building to John Lennon's childhood home, top-class museums, art galleries and two great cathedrals - Liverpool Cathedral and the Metropolitan Cathedral. In addition we had a chance to see *Another*

finally through the technology that inspired Sir Joseph Paxton and resulted in the ultimate greenhouse, Crystal Palace. Dr Sam Newton illustrated how the ideal of Camelot was seen in a number of castles built from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Caroline Rayman's lecture on the soldier and collector, Frederick the Great, showed why this 18<sup>th</sup> century King of Prussia, intellectual, philosopher, patron of the arts and sciences, talented musician and reformer was credited with modernising Prussia. In July, Professor Kent, whose original lecture had to be changed at the last minute, showed us the different styles of church architecture in Russia.

We will start the autumn with Shirley Smith's lecture explaining the meaning of symbolism in 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century paintings, much of which is obscure to us today. In "Are you Sitting Comfortably?" Janusz Karczewski-Slowikowski will examine the development of the chair from ancient times to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in our last lecture of the year in November, Mary Yule will entertain us with the history of the transformation of ordinary and extraordinary materials into works of art.

Anna Foster

*Place*, Anthony Gormley's installation of some 100 cast iron sculptures emerging from the sea at Crosby Beach. Another highlight of the tour was a visit to Salford Quays in Greater Manchester and its spectacular theatre and gallery complex, The Lowry, housing the biggest public collection of LS Lowry's works. We were given an expert introduction to the artist's life and had a chance to examine closely some of the 350 paintings and drawings on display.

The beautiful city of Dresden will be our next destination in May 2016; details of the tour are available on our website ([www.whdfas.org.uk](http://www.whdfas.org.uk)).

Halina Heyworth

### WHDFAS website

The Committee is indebted to Laurence Shafe who continues to look after our website ([www.whdfas.org.uk](http://www.whdfas.org.uk)) and ensure it is up-to-date. We thank him on your behalf - and are most grateful.

### Audio Visual

My thanks, on your behalf, go to the other members of the audio-visual team who support me and make sure everything is up and running in plenty of time and there are no hitches - some lecturers are not as well-equipped as others!! We need to ensure we are ready to cope with all eventualities and to meet any challenges - such as faulty equipment - so this year we have invested in a second laptop. We are most grateful to Robin Sutton, Spencer Needs, Harry Oliver, David Taylor, Gordon Swain and Hugh Taylor. If anyone would like to join our friendly team, do come and speak to one of us.

Lindy Wilson

## Visits

In February, in recognition of the WW1 centenary celebrations last year, we enjoyed a London tour (Bearskin & Bosche) with an excellent Blue Badge guide, visiting First World War sites, including the Guards Chapel and Museum and the new Flanders Memorial Garden, recently set with soil from Flanders. After lunch at the Mad Hatters pub, the afternoon continued by coach following the trail of the Zeppelin raids until we reached the Imperial War Museum and the newly completed First World War gallery.

In April, we visited Hever Castle, dating back to the twelfth century, where Anne Boleyn spent her childhood, with its double moat, portcullis, stone spiral staircase and long gallery. It was extensively renovated in 1903 when William Waldorf Astor bought the castle and lived there with his family. After a tour of the castle we were free to roam the magnificent Italian and Tudor gardens which include topiary, fountains and grottos.

Our July visit took us to Stowe House, an impressive grand prodigy Grade I listed house, now the home of the renowned Stowe School. It is surrounded by impressive parkland (owned by the National Trust since 1985) including temples, ornamental buildings, follies and bridges. After a fascinating tour of the house, which has been extensively renovated, we were able to explore the parkland, by foot or buggy, and enjoy the views of the iconic landscape designed by Lord Cobham, the first of its kind. Capability Brown later developed the idea in the numerous gardens that he designed.

In October we end our year with a Visit to Shoreditch and the Geffrye Museum, founded in 1914, and the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow.

We have some exciting Visits planned for 2016 and I look forward to seeing you next year.

Val Woolford

## Young Arts

### Bell Farm School Welcome Mosaic

WHDFAS has granted £1500 to Bell Farm Primary School in Walton to fund the cost of a welcome mosaic for the main entrance to the school. Sue Ekins, the artist, is creating a concept design based on ideas submitted by pupils aged 7-10 in a design competition held in the summer term. The work on the mosaic will be carried in a series of school workshops this autumn, and the installation of the mosaic will be accompanied by a display of all the designs submitted by the children.

### Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre - Art Bursaries

Our Society has offered £500 to fund one-term bursaries for Art Classes for children aged 5-16 at Riverhouse Barn. The bursaries are aimed at local schoolchildren

who are eligible for free school meals and who show a special aptitude for the arts. The first two bursaries each worth £175 have been awarded to pupils aged 6 and 8 from Burhill School in Walton; the pupils will be given the opportunity to experiment with various materials including drawing, painting, clay work and craft work.

### Christmas Exhibition

As only part of £500 originally allocated for Young Arts will be spent in the autumn term, your Committee agreed to contribute £325 towards the cost of running art workshops in local primary schools to produce snowflakes for the Snow Queen Christmas Exhibition at Riverhouse.

Halina Heyworth

## 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

***You should have received the small NADFAS Membership card. 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.***

As you know from our many appeals during the year, we are keen to invite new volunteers to assist the Committee. If anyone would like to help us, you would be more than welcome - why not come to one of our Committee meetings and see for yourself! Please talk to a member of the Committee if you are interested. 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. Our Waiting List currently has plenty of room for new members!

*The Committee*