



WALTON AND HERSHAM
DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY



Newsletter 2010

Vice Chairman's Report

The continued success of our society over the last year was overshadowed in April by the sad and untimely death of our Chairman John Webb-Jenkins. John was a keen and active Chairman who continued to build a lively society with an enthusiastic membership demonstrated by our full hall every month and our expanding waiting list. I am sure all of you would like to join me in offering our condolences to his family and friends.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee who have all continued to keep the Society running smoothly. They are of course all volunteers with busy social lives yet they find the time to organise our programme of events, special interest days, visits and young arts and behind the scenes they keep the membership records organised, the accounts maintained accurately and everything managed effectively. I will not mention everyone on the committee by name but I would like to thank Pauline Varney for an exciting programme of speakers. This year we have had a wide range of areas covered from Wagner's *Ring Cycle* to Roman London and next year we start with the exciting and little known art of revolutionary Russia before Stalin's repressive policies came into force. Two of the lectures next year are personal favourites of mine, the Aesthetic Movement and the Wilton Diptych. Catherine Carter organised the enjoyable day out to Bowood House and a successful visit to the National Gallery that included a backstage view of the Coliseum and she has a full list of events for next year and Diane Ball arranged the very successful Special Interest Day 'Pearls before Swine'.

You may have noticed that many lecturers have suddenly switched to digital projection—next year seven of the ten lectures will be digital. We are therefore lucky to have Lindy Wilson who is responsible for making sure our IT systems continue to work. Lindy also produces and updates the digital introduction you see each month before the lecture starts.

I would like to thank the retiring members of the Committee - Hilary Nunn, who was Membership Secretary and Dorothy Clark who looked after Young Arts and Tours.

Finally, I would like to welcome back existing members and welcome new members for what I believe will be an exciting year ahead.

Laurence Shafe

Membership Report

Firstly may I apologise to all of you who have had difficulty in tracking me down over the last several months. I took over the role of membership secretary at short notice and subsequent to all our printing for 2010 having been completed. Therefore none of my contact details were available to you. My thanks for your patience on the telephone when you, at last, made contact with me.

It really is important that you let me know (or leave a message) if you will be bringing a guest to any of our lectures so that we can cater for numbers attending. This applies to anyone currently on the waiting list who may wish to attend a lecture so that a list can be prepared and our venue capacity is not exceeded.

Our waiting list remains in a healthy condition and hopefully some of you will have your patience rewarded after renewals are completed in November. As always we will be holding a coffee morning on 9 December to welcome Waiting List members to tell them our plans for the coming year, with a similar event for new members early in 2011.

My thanks to my fellow Committee members who have given me great support and encouragement over the last months. I needed it!

Please spread the existence of WHDFAS among any of your friends who you feel would enjoy our lectures and membership in due course and in the meantime I look forward to seeing you at the 'front desk' on lecture days or speaking to you over the telephone.

Tony Collins

Report from the Treasurer

Another great year with a full membership and our finances remain strong. We have been able to upgrade more projection and audio equipment and plan to do more; our programme of improvement has been timely as more and more lecturers are converting to digital presentation. It is also a comfort in these challenging times that we can keep our subscription at the same level as when the Society was formed, and that we can support Young Arts, Church Recording and also donate to saving works of art in the national interest.



In respect to the last item, our Society has an excellent record in attracting Gift Aid for members' annual subscriptions so that every year a cheque arrives from Nadfas House in respect of our share of the rebate. This is an ideal way to recycle tax payers' money for the benefit of the country as a whole - and we have so far contributed over £1,000 in this way. We continue to seek out worthwhile projects; 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 UK tax, then please ask me for a form.

David Taylor

Programme Secretary

Lecturers in 2010 have royally presented us with their passion for their subjects. From the Aztecs in Mexico, through Wagner's epic journey and The Ring Cycle; porcelain and excavation. We also studied Rene Lalique and Japanese painting. In November, Dr Kate Williams of television fame, will intrigue us with Royal Scandals. Owing to illness, we missed Hilary Guise's lecture on Gertrude Stein and the Salon; however Peter Scott entertained us with his excellent lecture on the Scottish Painters.

We hope you are looking forward to our lectures in 2011. These will also encompass such topics as Georgian furniture, Salvador Dali, 'Wine and the Vine' and Art and photography in post-revolutionary Russia. However, if there are any subjects you would like us to include, please tell us as we will soon be planning our 2012 programme.

Pauline Varney

Special Interest Days 2009 and 2010



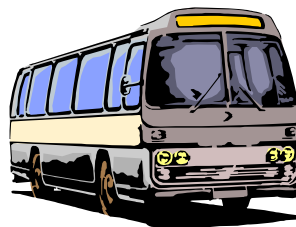
I am delighted to report that our Special Interest Days in 2009/2010 have again proved very successful. *The Silver Day* was extremely interesting and was attended by 40 members. Ian Pickford identified some of the treasures which members brought with them and demonstrated the correct methods to maintain silver in the very best possible condition. Peter Medhurst gave an outstanding lecture "*We Three Kings*" to a 'full house' at our Festive Supper and Susan Segal at The Riverhouse once again provided an excellent meal. In April, Jane Kelsall charted the history of a Royal Necklace "*Pearls before Swine*" and 60 members enjoyed hearing some of the scandals surrounding the Queen's jewels! On 28 September our lecturer was Laura de Beden "*Landscape and Garden design history through the Ages*" which was an inspirational and fascinating day. Our Festive Supper on 7 December will feature Elizabeth Gordon "*Vivaldi and Canaletto*". We have now booked a further three events at the Riverhouse for 2011, which we hope will be as popular as 2010.

Diane Ball

Tours

It was with some regret that the Committee decided to cancel the proposed tour of Houses and Gardens in Northamptonshire in 2010 due to a disappointing lack of response. We have decided to postpone plans for any future tours for the time being but will continue to review possibilities and look at other tours and tour operators. If the Committee feels there is anything of interest we will put it to the members to see if we can arrange a tour at home or abroad. If any members have any ideas please let us know.

Visits 2010



In March we visited the National Gallery to view the exhibition 'Painting History: Delaroche and the Execution of Lady Jane Grey'. We had an illuminating lecture on this 19th Century French painter who, intriguingly, specialised in monumental paintings of historical English figures - usually shortly before, during or just after their executions. In the afternoon we had a tour round the Coliseum guided by the always interesting and lively Sarah Lenton.

For our July visit we went to Bowood House, nestling in peaceful landscaped gardens and the home of the Lansdowne family. We were guided round the house by the Archivist who revealed its elegant rooms with interesting artefacts from the family's service overseas and some wonderful water colour paintings. After Bowood, we enjoyed a private visit to Broadleas Gardens admiring the diverse planting and the attractive 'secret garden rooms'. The plant shop was so popular that, on our return journey, the coach resembled a mobile garden centre.

Our London walk in October will trace the history and remains of Roman London. From Tower Hill we will follow some of the Roman walls around the city and walk, via the Guildhall, to see the remains of the amphitheatre, to the Museum of London. After lunch there will be time to see the Museum's Roman exhibits and the new galleries showing London from 1660 to the present day.

Catherine Carter

Teas after the lecture



It's great to be in Nadfas for talks which happen monthly
And when the lecture's over, you can have a cup of tea
Not only tea, there's biscuits and coffee on demand
It all gets washed up for you; no need to lift a hand.

So who are these lovely people who know just what to do?
Well they all are Nadfas members - in fact it could be you!
My name's Sue Cardy and each month I need some willing workers
So find me, call me, talk to me; you cannot all be shirkers!!

Each month I put a sheet up where your details you can fill
But usually I feel let down, as volunteers are nil!
I have a list of people who have said that I could ring
But if they're keen and call me first, that is a wonderful thing!

It can be fun to come and help, in fact it can be great
Especially if you phone a friend and do it with a mate.
If two more friends will join you, that's perfect; we need four
But if there's only two of you I can ring around for more.

I'm there each month to help you, if you want me you just say
Of course if it seems I am 'de trop' I just get out the way!

A vote of thanks to all of you who helped in 'two oh ten'
If I don't find some new helpers I might ask you again!

Sue Cardy
01932 226183
sue.cardy@whdfas.org.uk

Audio Visual



Our Digital Projection is still receiving accolades from lecturers. As we have the digital "Opening Screens" before our lectures, lecturers who still use slides are noticing the markedly improved definition available with digital images. Also, the more adventurous lecturers have used the advanced facilities available when showing their images in PowerPoint, e.g. showing two images that they want to compare on one screen or picking out and enlarging details of an image. We are delighted when some lecturers send us CDs of their lecture photos in advance as this removes the anxiety of wondering whether the software and hardware are compatible. We have heard that The Riverhouse Barn, where we have our Special Interest Days, is proposing to go totally digital, which we may consider in the future.

The new laptop caused some hairy moments when it was first purchased but is now behaving itself. Our present project is to increase the possibilities for using sound which will have the advantage of being able to show short films as well as static images. I should like to thank the members of the hardworking and supportive audio visual team who arrive early for the lecture each month to ensure everything is up and working before most members of the audience arrive.

Lindy Wilson

Payment for Visits and Special Interest Days

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

Young Arts Project 2010

This year Groveland's Primary School in Walton on Thames was delighted to receive a grant of £350 from our Society to involve the children in some creative artwork. Jackie Brown, the school Art Co-ordinator, took charge of the project. After discussion with staff and children, it was decided that the art installation would be a welcome mosaic to be placed near the school entrance.

Jackie Nash, a specialist in school mosaics, was asked to help with the project and children from the Reception and Year One classes painted pictures of what they would like to see in the mosaic. After a democratic selection of the most popular ones, Jackie Nash prepared the template for the mosaic and the children were then involved with placing the tesserae on the panel. Mounted next to the school entrance, it is colourful welcome.



Catherine Carter

Church Recording

On Sunday 29th August we presented the Church Record to the Church of St. Mary Magdalene at Littleton; three beautifully bound, dark green volumes with gold lettering. We were made very welcome at the Church and the congregation were amazed at the detailed information we provided giving them a great insight into the many wonderful artefacts. The Record was truly appreciated and will have a special place within the Church.

Earlier this year we started recording at St. Nicholas at Shepperton and we have made a good start, hopefully, there will be a lot to tell you in the next newsletter.

Three new recorders have joined us at Shepperton - we haven't lost any because we have such an enjoyable time.

Val Goodhart-Riley

Heritage Volunteers

In the past we have supplied heritage volunteers to help at Hampton Court but over the last year we have not been aware of any vacancies. However, we hope to be able to develop this in the future.

Guests

We're always happy for Members to bring guests and for Waiting List members to come to lectures. Just remember to contact Tony Collins, our Membership Secretary and arrive with £5. For those "on-line", it is more convenient for Tony to receive notification by e-mail; tony.collins@whdfas. However, you can of course, still ring him: 01932 343794

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.

All Waiting List Members are invited to a coffee morning at Hersham Village Hall on 9 December 2010 (from 10.30 to 12.30).

October 2010