

RICHMOND & DISTRICT DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Members

Application forms

I attach or enclose the application forms for the study day and visits for May to July 2017. If you are applying for several things please would you do separate cheques for each and please also enclose a separate cheque for any guests in case the event is oversubscribed and your guests can't come. If you are paying by bank transfer, please send me an email so that I know what you are paying for.

Change of Name

This is very exciting news. NADFAS is changing its trading name to The Arts Society and, subject to the necessary resolution being passed, we will change our name to The Arts Society Richmond.

The change of name is the result of an extensive and lengthy exercise and consultation conducted by a specialist rebranding company engaged by NADFAS. Many of us love the NADFAS name but the acronym does not describe us well. Indeed some people think that the FAS at the end stands for Flower Arranging Society! The new name describes us admirably and I am sure that in time we will embrace it. It also suggests a wider remit of all the arts such as music and literature.

This is much more than just a change of name; it's a change in identity and a change in marketing approach. It will involve a new logo, new colours, new website and much more. NADFAS aims to be the leading authority on all the arts. There is an excellent video all about the rebranding at <https://goo.gl/0OTmMS> and the NADFAS press release is at <https://goo.gl/qCA2Bs>.

NADFAS will officially adopt its new trading name at its AGM in May and there will be no changes until then, but even after then things will move slowly. It might take two or three years to make all the necessary changes.

As a courtesy I will of course be advising Richmond Art Society and Arts Richmond of the change in name. My guess is that there will be some confusion to begin with but that things will settle down in time.

NADFAS AGM

The NADFAS AGM will be held in Birmingham Town Hall on Wednesday 17 May 2017. If you would like to attend it and any of the other events that have been arranged, please register your place at www.nadfas.org.uk/agm-2017. On the booking form you should choose the box that describes you as a "General Member". Please do not register for the Directory Day as this is restricted by NADFAS to committee members.

Our own AGM

Our own AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4 July 2017 before the lecture at 8pm. As well as the normal business of an AGM there will be a resolution to change the name of the society to The Arts Society Richmond and I attach the Notice of the AGM in case the date of the next newsletter does not allow the required notice period.

Young Arts

Over the years we have supported Young Arts in many ways. Most recently we have sponsored art exhibitions for school children at Orleans Gallery which have been a tremendous success but, due to the refurbishment of the gallery, Richmond Council is not repeating the event this year. Heather Montford is discussing with the Council what we can now do to help.

Sponsorship

2018 is the 50th Anniversary year of NADFAS and we would like to do something special to recognise that landmark. The idea that we are pursuing is to sponsor a local artist or artisan for a project that he or she wishes to undertake. This is taking a long time to put together so there is no specific news that I can share with you at the moment but it's going to be exciting when it happens!

Church Recording

We are having enthusiastic discussions with the vicar and the PCC of St Mary with St Alban Church in Teddington about preparing what is known as a Church Record which essentially helps the church understand and catalogue its furnishings and discover the fascinating history of the objects in the church. I am very grateful to Sue Stevens for initiating this project and I am confident that many of you will want to join the church recording group. I will be in touch. There is a short video about church recording at www.nadfas.tv/church-recording.

New members' drinks parties

We held our first drinks party for new members last October and our second one is in a few days' time on 10 February. We are most grateful to Heather Montford for hosting the parties in her central Richmond home so many thanks to her. The parties are a wonderful way of introducing new members to committee members and other new members. We all share a love of the arts so we have a lot in common. We will continue to hold the parties, probably once a year now.

Berlin Trip

Our next foreign trip will be to Berlin and Potsdam for 6 days starting on 10 September 2017. We will visit the East Side, Museum Island, the Pergamon Museum, the Neues Museum, Charlottenburg Palace, Sanssouci Palace and more. The brochure for the trip is on the website at <https://goo.gl/Pg1OYL> and will be available on the signing-in desk on lecture evenings. I love Berlin. It's such an exciting place to visit.

Change of date

Due to our planned involvement in the Teddington Fair the date of the Summer Lunch Party has been changed once again, this time to Sunday 2 July 2017, so please change your blue programme card accordingly.

Thank you all so much for your continued support.

Richard Lebus

Chairman

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