



## RICHMOND & DISTRICT DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY July 2015 Newsletter

July 2015

Dear Members

I have now completed my first year as Chairman and what a wonderful year it has been!

I would like to start by again thanking Catherine and Maurice Parry-Wingfield for hosting the lunch at their magnificent Montpelier Row house in February. They have very generously offered to host a lunch again in 2016 which I very much look forward to. Thank you also to Pauline Tuft for producing a wonderful spread of food.



Garden party

We were blessed with dry weather for the barbecue lunch in our garden last month. The drizzle stopped at 12.29pm before the first guests arrived at 12.30pm! Jenny excelled herself with the food and the garden was looking beautiful. We'll repeat it in 2016 too.

### The core programme

The core programme of the Society comprises the lectures, study days and visits that we all enjoy and I enclose the lecture and visit reports that were distributed at the recent AGM. I particularly want to thank Ann Saunders who organises the study days, Sue Stevens who plans the lecture programme and all the visit secretaries - Betty Makin, Jane Wardle, Pauline Tuft and Margaret Walsh - for their continued hard work and congratulate them for such an interesting programme. Everything goes like clockwork because of their excellent preparation and planning. The popularity of the visits led to some members being disappointed when visits were oversubscribed, particularly those at the end of last year. In the interests of fairness to all, we now have a protocol that oversubscribed visits will either be repeated or be subject to a ballot to determine who is able to come along. This has worked well since we introduced it.



Sotheby's



Study day



Watches at the British Museum



The Queen's dress at Blythe House

## The Beep Beep Project

As part of our Young Arts programme over the last 12 months, we sponsored what was known as the Beep Beep Project. This entailed children in all participating primary schools in Richmond Borough drawing and subsequently building a vehicle, either actual or imaginary. Cars go "beep beep" when you press the hooter - hence the name.

In May there was a week-long exhibition at the Octagon Gallery of many of the entries to the competition and a winner chosen. The Mayor presented certificates.

It was all an amazing success and much enjoyed by the children and their teachers. This is a really good thing for the Society to be involved in. Our thanks are due to Heather Montford who takes a keen interest in Young Arts.



## Our first Church Trail

We are just now finalising our first Church Trail which is for St Mary Magdalene Church in the centre of Richmond.

A Church Trail is a question sheet that guides children and accompanying adults around a church and encourages them to engage with the architecture, history and furnishings. Ann Saunders and her team have composed the questions and corresponding answer sheets and the aim is to encourage 8-12 year olds and their families to learn about the building and inspire them to visit and enjoy other churches. Ours is on one page, printed on both sides, so it's cheap for the church to photocopy.

I will have copies of the final version at the next lecture evening.

## **Trips**

Our first trip for many years will be to Liverpool in September 2015. Please contact me if you'd like to come along and I'll see whether we can get a room at the hotel. We have just published the brochure for the next trip to Norfolk in May 2016. You will find it at [www.tailored-travel.co.uk/richmondffas\\_norfolk\\_2016](http://www.tailored-travel.co.uk/richmondffas_norfolk_2016) but please let me know if you would like a hard copy.

I am hoping that these trips will be a big success and that trips will become a regular part of the core programme in future years. I am building up to organising a trip abroad! I want to go to St Petersburg but perhaps that's a bit ambitious for starters. Maybe Bruges? We always welcome suggestions.

## **Membership**

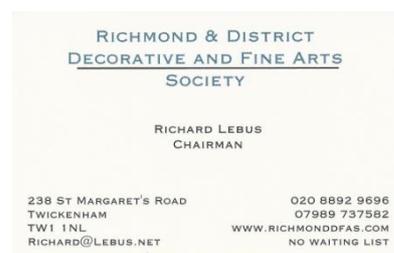
Our membership is 283, a small increase of 6 people in the last 12 months. That sounds fine but for various reasons 30 members did not renew their membership last year. The churn rate (meaning, resignations as a percentage of membership) over the whole of NADFAS is about 10% so we are about average. It's important that we continue to attract new members. Christine Dymond works hard on marketing but we can all do our bit by spreading the word amongst our friends and encouraging them to become members. We are implementing the following two things immediately.....

### **£5 vouchers**

We will give you a £5 voucher for **each** new member that you introduce. This can be redeemed against the cost of any of our study days, visits, social events and trips.

### **Business cards**

So that you have something tangible to give to a friend or contact when you discuss RADFAS membership with them, we are going to give you RADFAS business cards. You will see they have my name and contact details, the website address and a note there is no waiting list.



The cards are very cheap to produce and a few are enclosed if you are receiving this newsletter in the post. You can ask for more cards whenever you want and we will have a good supply available on lecture evenings.

The idea is that you will give the card to anybody you talk to who seems to be interested, in the hope that they will contact me or go to the website where the latest membership form can be found. If a friend is uncertain about joining, don't forget they can come to a lecture as your guest for £5, deducted from their subscription if they join.

## **Application forms**

The application forms for the next series of visits and study day are attached or enclosed covering the period from September to December 2015. If you ever have a problem downloading an application form, please phone me and I'll pop one in the post to you.

## **Membership renewal form**

I very much hope that you will continue as a member of the Society and would ask you to complete the attached membership form now. You can do it all online of course if you wish. Just pay by bank transfer and send Jenny or me a short email - all very easy!

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Richard Lebus  
Chairman



Preston Manor, Brighton



Audley End



A Beep Beep train