



RICHMOND & DISTRICT DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY November 2015 Newsletter

November 2015

Dear Members

We have had a wonderful start to our new annual cycle of lectures, study days, visits and trips and I know that the ones that follow will be just as exciting. Even the misunderstanding which resulted in our first lecture being bumped into the downstairs café led to a friendly blitz spirit and the lecturer coped admirably.



Visit to Badminton House



The United Reformed Church is no longer available to us for study days because the church is being sold which is a shame as it was great venue. A big thank you to Ann Saunders for all her efforts in securing the Vestry Hall as an alternative. There were a few teething problems for our recent day there but hopefully they can be ironed out.

I attach or enclose application forms for the events that will take place in January to March 2016 plus the new brochure for our trip to Spain in September 2016.

Membership numbers

At 30 June 2015 we had 283 members. Since then 41 members have not renewed their subscriptions for various good reasons and we have 24 new members, so right at the moment we have 266 members. Our resignation rate is above the national NADFAS average which is 10% per year but we continue to be successful in attracting new members - a big welcome to all new members reading this.

Most of our new members have joined because of a personal introduction but we continue to spread our name through gentle marketing. This mainly involves advertising our lectures on local community websites but there are other things that we do, such as handing out leaflets and business cards, displaying leaflets in the libraries, leaving the NADFAS magazine in GP and hairdresser waiting rooms (I hope that you

are doing that when you have finished with your copy). There is also the £5 voucher scheme for introducing a new member, plus Facebook and Twitter. Amusingly two guests came all the way from Hampshire to hear the Van Eyck lecture having seen it advertised on Twitter.

New members sometimes hear about us from unexpected sources. For example, our latest new member joined after picking up from the pavement a scrap of paper with our name on it. Now that really is a novel approach to marketing!

The Committee

I never quite know whether I should say that our committee members work really hard (which makes the job sound horribly onerous) or to say that they take it in their stride (which doesn't sound very complimentary or appreciative). What I can say is that all the committee members contribute very effectively and that we have a fun time doing it.

We do a lot of it by email but we have three committee meetings a year as it's good to meet and discuss things occasionally. The visits are organised by a group of three and I think that that's the way forward - to work in teams in order to swap ideas and share the effort. Would any of you like to help Sue with the lecture programme?

I can't tell you which it is but I have heard that one NADFAS society is going to close in the New Year because they cannot attract new committee members. Now that's food for thought.

We will be surveying you soon to see if there is any way you would like to get involved.



Visit to Eton

Social events

We will be repeating the two social events that we enjoyed this last year. We will be having lunch at Catherine and Maurice Parry-Wingfield's lovely Montpelier Row house on Sunday 14 February 2016 and then a lunchtime garden party at our house in St Margaret's on Sunday 19 June 2016. Please put these dates into your diary.

Other dates now confirmed

Since printing the orange programme card the following two dates have also been confirmed. The visit to the Waddesdon Bequest at the British Museum is on Friday 5 February 2016 and the Jewish London Walk is on Tuesday 8 March 2016. You can of course check all the dates on the website where there's a convenient calendar on the home page.

Trips

We had a really successful trip to Liverpool in September and even the weather was kind to us. Judging from the lovely comments that we received, the whole group seems to have enjoyed it.



RC Cathedral, Liverpool



Little Moreton Hall



Quarry Bank Mill

Our next trip is to Norfolk in May 2016 and is virtually full. The one after that is a two-centre, 6-day trip to Spain in September 2016 which is simply called "Magical Andalucía". We will be visiting Granada, the Alhambra, Cordoba and Seville and I'm really looking forward to it as I haven't been there before. That's one big advantage of being on the committee and organising things - you get to do the things you want to do.

Kneller Hall

There is a new volunteering project at the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall in Whitton which I think will interest you. They need help to make an inventory of their musical instruments (some of which go back several hundred years including to the battles of Waterloo and Scutari) and clean, wrap and pack them.

We will meet one day a week (probably Wednesday) between 10am and 3pm and will start in January 2016. It's not necessary to be there all that time of course.

Wednesday morning is band practice so it will be 'music while you work'! There is plenty of car-parking space but you could go by train to Twickenham or Whitton. Tea and coffee will be supplied and there's a café. Please contact me if you would like to help.

Christmas drinks

Our next lecture on Tuesday 1 December 2015 will be followed as usual with free drinks and nibbles, courtesy of Heather Montford as ever. It will be a light-hearted lecture on "The Three Wise Men: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh: Traditions of the Magi" and I hope to see you all then. Please do come along if you are free.

May I be the first to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Richard Lebus
Chairman



The Liverpool Group minus one!



Liverpool Anglican Cathedral



Speke Hall