

NEWSLETTER

December 2017



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
GRAYSHOTT

WELCOME . . .

Our 2017 Newsletter is the first under our new name, The Arts Society Grayshott and also my first, as Chairman, having taken over from John Sherwood in January. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to chair your committee and to meet so many of the members at lectures and on visits.

The monthly lecture programme, intrinsic to our society, aims to be both informative and entertaining. I have often found that the most enjoyable lectures were those on subjects or artists with which I wasn't greatly familiar or in which, previously, I had had only a passing interest. The 2018 programme of lectures and Special Interest Days promises to be one of our best ever.

The visits this year, as always, were very well supported by members and, once again, proved excellent; with the tour of Italy's Emilia Romagna region a great success. I look forward to enjoying the 2018 exciting schedule of visits with you and would highlight the 2020 tour. That may seem a long way off but the Passion Play is only performed every tenth year and so is, for many of us, a once in a lifetime opportunity. We expect it to be a sought-after tour so, if you are interested, sign up at our January lecture.

The Society's finances are gaining in strength and this enables us to look forward to expanding our Young Arts and Heritage projects over the coming years. We will be continuing our work with both Stepping Stones School and the Hindhead Music Centre and are looking for additional projects where assistance from the Society can make a difference.

Social events such as the Bridge Drive and, for the first time, a Christmas Lunch have been successful in bringing a greater social dimension to the Society and will continue in the year ahead. Next year is the 50th Anniversary of NADFAS and we are planning to mark the occasion with an anniversary tea.

Our committee members and volunteers make all these events and activities possible. Offers of help are always welcome and, should you be prepared to offer your services to the committee, it might be for only once or twice a year, not a full year's commitment.

The Committee and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. ■

Derek Linney, Chairman

Days of Special Interest

In March we enjoyed a very interesting and informative series of three lectures on 'Other Worldly Byzantium: Holy Places, Sacred Art and Priceless Treasures' by Dr. Helen Rufus Ward. Some splendid images enabled us to gain meaningful insights into treasures of the UNESCO World Heritage Site and the staggering range of Byzantium's Art. In November, Anthony Rayworth examined how modern life has been influenced by developments in the designs of homes and gardens since the 17th Century.

Our 2018 Special Interest Days are already eagerly anticipated. In March, 'The Ancient Maya' is the theme of



the three lectures by Diane Davies. She will explore the huge contribution made by their civilization, their kingship rituals and, the splendour of and insights gained from, their

painted vessels. In November, Caroline Knight will lead us on 'The Grand Tour: Travel & Collecting in the 18th Century'. Starting with how the Grand Tour began she will explore the people involved as well as where they went and how they travelled before looking at what was seen and bought in Rome and Naples. Then, concluding by looking at the founders of the Royal Academy in 'Artists & Architects in 18th Century Italy' These days, having three lectures and being more informal with more time for questions, are popular so make sure to get the dates in your diary. ■

Ros Balfour

Young Art



Our society's continuing funding support to the Art Department at Stepping Stones School has enabled their Arts Pyrograph Project come to fruition. This project has helped develop creative, innovative and effective approaches to pupils' understanding of the Arts. The Undershaw site provided a creative platform for the Stencilling and Sculpture Project that has helped to recreate the Forest School/Fairy Garden, originally created by Louise, the wife of Conan Doyle. Felled trees from the site were used to create benches. Other wood was used for pupils who were leaving to place a pyrographic message of reflection, to those who follow in their footsteps. In addition, the pupils have been able to visit The Tate and Woodland spaces. At present, we are planning to continue our support by helping to organize and fund an Art Competition.



Also this year has seen the development of our involvement with the Hindhead Music Centre, by helping to support a talented pupil with her harp lessons. Now we are looking at further ways to support the centre in the year ahead, possibly by sponsoring a bursary or grant. Through our various initiatives we are eager to build a lasting enthusiasm among our young people for the Arts. ■

Heather Hooker



Did you know?

Our next Bridge Drive will be on Wednesday 21st February 2018.

VISITS

This year we've enjoyed five one-day visits and a 6-day tour to Italy. First off was the National Portrait Gallery's thought provoking 'Picasso Portraits Exhibition' introduced by an excellent expert talk. In April we followed a visit to William Morris's famous Red House, with a tour of the Dulwich Picture Gallery and its Vanessa Bell exhibition. June saw us visit two glorious gardens in contrasting formal and informal styles at Pashley Manor and Great Dixter and in July, our visit to the extensive gardens at Munstead Wood, former home



of Gertrude Jekyll, followed up a previous talk on Jekyll and Lutyens. In September we enjoyed tours of The Houses of Parliament and The Supreme Court.

Our trip to Italy was based for 6 days in Bologna. Sunny weather every day and our wonderful guide

and tour manager Anna, who took us from our hotel not only to Bologna but to Ferrara, Ravenna, Parma and Mantua, enhanced the whole experience. One of the highlights was the astonishing freshness and intricacy of the mosaics in Ravenna.

2018 starts with a visit to 'The Age of Jazz Exhibition' at 2 Temple Place, Astor's opulent neo-Gothic mansion, followed by the Courtauld Gallery. In April we go to Highclere Castle, of Downton Abbey fame and home to the Earls of Carnarvon and an exhibition about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. We then visit Sandham Memorial Chapel to see Sir Stanley Spencer's powerfully evocative murals of WWI.



In June, we have an expert guided tour of Roche Court Sculpture Park including works by Gormley and Hepworth. Afterwards we explore the C17th interior, art collection, classic cars and riverside grounds at stunning Wilton House.



In September we will see the imposing splendour of Jacobean Hatfield House and its extensive grounds with the remains of the old Royal Palace. A local visit or trip to see a London exhibition may be added later.

Normally we would have a UK tour following an overseas one but the world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play is in 2020. We are planning a week's tour to the Play and the Art and Palaces of Munich and Bavaria for 2020. Hence, we will have a UK tour in 2019 and in 2018 we have a 6-day tour to Vienna, with its wonderful historic and artistic heritage. It is the anniversary year of Klimt and Schiele and there will be optional visits to some of the highlights of this 'City of Music'.



Thank you so much for your support and feedback during the year. I hope you will find next year's visits equally enjoyable and informative.

Peter Crowfoot

Have you heard?

About what promises to be a very sought-after tour, planned for 2020, which will include the Oberammergau Passion Play?

Programme Report

Once again we have enjoyed a varied and entertaining selection of lectures, with several linking to visits already enjoyed. Many will recall Eveline Eaton's fascinating talk on Seurat and Jane Choy-Thurlow's exploration of Holbein's portraits while the topical Lutyens and Jekyll and Pissarro lectures aroused lots of local interest.



Our January lecture on 'Gustav Klimt' is ideally timed. 2018 is the 100th anniversary of his death so there may be exhibitions, especially in Vienna. A gold thread runs through subsequent lectures on Fabergé's Easter, Tutankhamun and our special lecture to mark the 50th Anniversary of the formation of NADFAS. The June architecture lecture on Zara Hadid's work has links to previous Special Interest days and planned visits while John Iddon's discussion of 'Impressionists in London' and November's focus on 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh' may inspire future such events. Periodically an opera is relayed live at Haslemere Hall. Our September lecture will focus on the opera to be relayed live at Haslemere Hall and appreciation of the art form will be enhanced by explanation of the story and hearing some of the beautiful music. The music theme features again with the welcome return of Peter Medhurst in December for 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. I hope our exciting and varied Programme will prove interesting to you all. I do appreciate your feedback and any suggestions for future topics. These afternoons are for you to enjoy.



Julia Tarento

Heritage Volunteers

During 2017 we have concentrated on the Children's Church Trail for St Alban's, Hindhead. The Trail must be suitable for 8-12 year olds and has two parts. Part one is for children, with accompanying adults, and identifies specific items inside the church, as seen from a child's height. Even if a child has never before been in a church, the Trail must enable them to identify and understand the significance of the items which must be on display at all times. For example, on first entering the church, the child sees the Font and then learns its purpose and significance in the Christian faith. Images of the items are shown on a computer generated Trail sheet with spaces for answers to be inserted.

Part two of the St Alban's Church Trail contains answers and explanatory notes for parents, teachers, and visitors to the Church. Researching church records, I discovered the stone Font is a replica of the Font at Winchester Cathedral and when it was moved to the west end of the nave, the 'Holy Water' could no longer drain straight into the ground so has to be bailed out to prevent any remaining drop being used for occult purposes.



Sally Elliott