



Your Chairman writes ...

Welcome to our 2011 summer newsletter! As you will know from your programme, we have lots of treats ahead to enjoy this season. Membership renewals have been encouragingly strong and we have also welcomed a number of new members.

I know how much you appreciate the work which our committee puts in to make this all possible. There are opportunities coming up for any of you who feel you would like to put something back and get more involved in running the Society.

At the 2012 AGM our current Programme Secretary and Evening Membership Secretary end their terms of office and so we are looking for their replacements at the moment so that their successors can shadow them for the rest of this year. If you have the time and skills to be able to help with either of these posts please have a word with me and I will be only too happy to explain what is involved. I can assure you of a warm welcome and a lot personal satisfaction and fun!

John Baker

Young Arts

Our thanks go to Yvonne Farrington who is standing down from her role as our Young Arts Coordinator after four years of service. Her tenure has seen three projects completed and the foundations laid for further links with St Joseph's school and the Arts Centre. The baton has been handed to two pairs of hands - Jan Fricker and Pat Morgan - whom we wish well in this important aspect of our society.

Christmas Party

Please make a note in your diaries that the Christmas Party this year is on **Wednesday 7 December** at The Parrot Inn. We have booked a splendid "speaker" - lots more details in the next Newsletter!

Forthcoming Lectures

22 June – Anee Sebba BA (Hons) - The Dollar Princesses

The story of how the wealth of American heiresses shored up Britain's country houses.

27 July - Mike Higginbottom BA MEd - The Big Apple: The Architecture of New York

The comparatively ancient buildings of the 19th century, the great skyscrapers of the first half of the 20th century, and more recent additions to the famous skyline.

No lecture in August

28 September - David Phillips - Who Says? Can we trust the experts on good and bad in art?

The minefield facing experts need not deter the rest of us from making artistic quality judgments just based on life experience.

Planning your Annual Programme

Each year at the end of March NADFAS holds an event called the 'Directory Day' in London. Societies from all over UK are invited to send their Programme Secretaries to the meeting. The confidential NADFAS Directory contains over 600 lecturer's details, all of whom have passed a rigorous selection process and it is generally from this book, and meeting the individuals at the Directory Day, that your Society makes its selection for the annual programme of lectures.

We are in the process of booking speakers for 2012/13 and hope that we will produce an interesting and varied selection for your enjoyment.

Karen Shelton

Outings 2011

Yes – the season has started! Make sure you do not miss out on your choices! Bookings for all our outings have been to capacity or very near, so early organization by you is essential!

English Heritage Several of our outings are to English Heritage properties so if you think membership would be financially beneficial to you (ie you may want to visit other properties independently this year) – then with membership we can reduce the cost of your outings with us.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/support-us/Join/>

Forthcoming Outings

Osborne House Isle of Wight 9 June 2011

This will be a wonderful day and hopefully we have chosen well as the grounds should be at their peak and there is much to explore. The departure will be early due to Ferry demands – but in the middle of summer that is not such a problem is it?

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/osborne-house/history/>

Eltham Palace and the Rangers House 12 July

On this visit you get two in one day! They are very close geographically – so they make good use of your travelling time. From the stunning Art Deco, Medieval Hall and beautiful gardens at Eltham...

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/eltham-palace-and-gardens/>

... to the glittering Wernher Collection in a stunning Georgian House

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/rangers-house-the-wernher-collection/>

We look forward to seeing you all – and if you do have last minute difficulties with your tickets – if possible please e-mail me (from our website) rather than phone

Gwen Wright

Walking Tour Guildford 12 May 2011



About fifty of us attended and enjoyed a fascinating day being shown some of the historical and architectural highlights of a town we all thought we knew pretty well. Our privileged tour around Abbot's Hospital (pictured) was a particular joy."

Outing to the 'Egyptian Book of the Dead' at the British Museum

This exhibition looked at the experience that the Egyptians



believed the dead would undergo in order to reach Paradise safely. Dr John Taylor, the Curator of the exhibition, gave the most informative lecture before our visit. Without this we would have been lost.

Here are a couple of extracts from Jane Cross's interesting report. The full report, along reports of all our lectures can be read on our website - www.cranleighdfas.org

At the start of a successful journey, the deceased would have one of three ends: joining the gods in the sky, worshipping Osiris in the netherworld or being reunited with loved ones in the Field of Reeds.

The most memorable exhibit? It's difficult to choose: illustrations in such an excellent state of preservation, the gilded coffin, the fine hieratic hand and line drawings in Nesitanebisheru's Book of the Dead.

Charitable Status

Following the vote at the February AGM, we have now completed a two-stage electronic application to the Charity Commission. We await their response. If we are successful, then a further application will be made to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for permission to reclaim gift aid on the subscriptions from all those members who completed a gift aid declaration when renewing their subscriptions. Currently, we get a gift aid refund of £1 per declaring member on the levy we pay NADFAS headquarters Gift Aid on the whole subscription will give us £10 per declaring member, a big boost to our income.

If you have not yet done so and can gift aid your subscription, do get in touch with Brian Wright, our Treasurer, on 01403 822207. Every penny counts!

Jonathan Cross