



### Your Chairman writes ...

By any measure 2012/13 was very successful for Cranleigh DFAS thanks to the efforts of your hard-working committee and you will see from the super programme for the new season that their efforts on your behalf have continued apace. Do encourage any potential new members to join this year especially those who may have come as guests in the past.

There is a new era at NADFAS headquarters following the untimely death last year of David Bell, the Chief Executive who had brought a welcome breath of fresh air into the corridors of NADFAS House. The newly appointed CE is Florian Schweizer. He was the Director of the Dickens Museum for eleven years and was responsible for its recent renovation. He looks set to continue David's modernising work and we wish him well.

Which brings me to a possibly tricky matter. I had a conversation recently with someone who thought NADFAS was an all-women organisation. I was more than happy to disabuse him as you can imagine. However, I believe we should do something about this out-dated misconception by thinking of ways to even up the gender balance of our Society. Your thoughts on this would be most welcome.

Very best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

*John Baker*

### Young Arts

The Marsh Christian Trust Award for volunteering with NADFAS is awarded to those who work to improve people's lives by selflessly contributing their time and energy. Last year Cranleigh DFAS submitted our Young Arts Team for the group award and we are thrilled and proud to announce that they were awarded a commendation in this prestigious national scheme. The ceremony took place at Kensington Town Hall in November 2013, when the certificate was presented by the Duchess of Gloucester.

The whole of Cranleigh DFAS deserves to share in the achievement. Without the enthusiastic and generous backing of the membership, none of our many *Young Arts* projects would be possible.

A testament to all the hard work was received from St Joseph's School.

"We are ... indebted to your members for their long standing patience and support of the school over recent years. Please pass on to all concerned our heartfelt gratitude ..."



"**Year Five Face Fun**", a hugely popular, fully funded CDFAS *Young Arts* project, saw 9 and 10 year olds, from Cranleigh's three state primary schools, each produce a self portrait. After an exhibition at the Arts Centre of all 118 entries, the project culminated in a lively judging party on the 16 November. The "Surrey Advertiser" was on hand to record the event, when Denise Topolski, NADFAS *Young Arts* Chairman, presented prizes to eight lucky winners. Every child received a book featuring all the self portraits.



### Retirement of a Much-loved Friend

Observant members who were at the excellent November lecture on Basingstoke may have noticed that our speaker was using our new lightweight stand with clip-on LED lighting for his notes. This new arrival follows the well-deserved retirement of the previous much-loved lectern – understood to have been handmade back in the Buck's Green days by Colin Stewart aided by Norman Price - to its original home in St Peter's and St Paul's, Ewhurst, from where it has been on loan since Cranleigh DFAS was inaugurated some twenty years ago.

## Christmas Party

CDFAS members gathered for the Christmas dinner in the beautiful restored Sussex barn at Cranleigh Golf & Country Club on 4 December. After a lovely meal, the diners tested their skills on the toughest quiz yet from Jonathan Cross. The winning table achieved just 62% so CDFA members must try harder! The six rounds of questions, puzzles and teasers would have challenged



members with the IQ of even the London Mayor!

Sadly one member fell ill during the evening but everyone responded generously by donating the day of golf from the raffle as an incentive to a speedy and full recovery. The raffle, with proceeds going to our Young Arts programme rewarded more than twenty winners. Our Chairman reminded us of the great work that the Young Arts team, funded by our Society, has carried out this year at five local schools.

## Forthcoming lectures

**January 22 2014 Eveline Eaton**

### **Dresden Today: Art & Architecture**

Dresden celebrated its 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006. Known as 'The Florence of the North,' its C18<sup>th</sup> buildings have been faithfully restored. Nearby is the charming town of Meissen with its famous porcelain factory. Dresden is an 'Aladdin's Cave' for anyone interested in the decorative and fine arts. We are fortunate to have Eveline Eaton, who has extensive knowledge of the city and its environs. She has recently been appointed to the Chair of the Dresden Trust which helped to rebuild the Frauenkirche (the Church of our Lady).

**February 26 2014 John Iddon Berlin to Bridlington: Lucien Freud and David Hockney**

The recent sell-out exhibitions of these two artists testify to the excitement they engender. Freud was born in the Weimar Republic, grandson of Sigmund, with many famous relatives and intellectuals around him. Hockney moved from Bradford to Swinging 60's London and on to hedonistic California, returning latterly to Bridlington and the Yorkshire Wolds. Hockney's range is wider and his output more prolific: Freud painted his portrait. John Iddon is a lecturer and guide at Tate Britain and Tate

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Modern. He also works in colleges and societies in the UK and abroad. His most recent publication is a guide to Strawberry Hill House, the recently renovated Gothic revival house of Horace Walpole.

### **March 26 2014 Roger Rosewell Medieval Wall Paintings**

Wall paintings are a unique art form. The artist's 'canvas' is part of the very stone and plaster of the church or cathedral. They enhanced the devotional experience, creating a setting for prayer and worship in medieval times. Today their imagery still has the power to inspire awe and wonder. With the power of modern technology Roger Rosewell's slides so enhance the paintings that we are able to see what the original artists intended, thereby bringing medieval churches to life. Roger Rosewell is a professional writer, lecturer and photographer. He is the author of several books on medieval churches, their wall paintings and stained glass.

### **April 23 2014 Dr Geri Parlbly Shock, Horror, Probe: the Art & Artifice of Fleet Street**

A newspaper story in pictures! Since the end of the C15<sup>th</sup> when Wynkyn de Worde set up England's first printing press, and after 1702 when the first newspaper moved in, the term 'Fleet Street' has been synonymous with newspaper journalism. We will be looking at the ups and downs of this notorious 'Street of Shame' via the art that illustrated its stories. Dr Geri Parlbly spent many years working as a Fleet Street journalist. Later she turned to academia gaining first class Honours degree in History and Theology, an MA with distinction in History of Art and a doctorate on the early art of the Virgin Mary. She lectures widely in universities and societies.

*Liz Trickett (Programme Secretary)*

## Outings

We are all looking forward to yet another season of treats! The website and the programme will give you full details.

Our first visit in March is to the British Museum for **The Vikings Life and Legend** exhibition. Then, in May, off to **Stratfield Saye**, the private home of the Duke of Wellington, in anticipation of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. In June we explore the **Legacy of the Olympic Park** and experience crossing the Thames on the Emirates Cable Car! In July we will follow a trail of **Wren's Churches** and in September we end the year with a double visit to East Sussex's **Farley Farmhouse** with its Surrealist links to Picasso, Penrose, Lee Miller and other famous artists, and then the **Towner Gallery, Eastbourne**, which brings us back to this year's lecture about the architect Rick Mather.

***As a matter of good practice, in future we will request an emergency phone number for each passenger in the event of emergency when we are on an excursion.***

*Gwen Wright - Outings Secretary*

[www.cranleighdfas.org](http://www.cranleighdfas.org)