



FOLKESTONE DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

Website: www.nadfaskentarea.org.uk

November 2008 Newsletter

Annual General Meeting and new committee

Eighty-four members attended our AGM in The Tower Theatre on 23 October when Angela Hill was elected to stand for a third and final year as Chairman. The following members were also elected to serve on the committee for the coming year:

Christopher Melchers – *Treasurer*
Judy Norden – *Secretary*
Chris Smith – *Membership Secretary*
Terry Smith – *Programme Secretary*
Brinley Hughes – *Visits Coordinator*
Alison Lawrence – *Social Secretary*
Mary Fry
David Springett
Teresa Wallace.

The position of Vice-Chairman remains vacant but needs to be filled urgently, since the appointment is normally with a view to that person becoming our next Chairman. Angela would be very pleased to hear from anyone who may wish to know more about what the position involves.

Membership renewal

Due in large measure to our proactive recruitment drive at the end of last year, our membership has almost doubled during the past twelve months to a current total of 225. However, we can still accept more members up to a maximum limit of 250.

This successful achievement means that we can maintain annual subscriptions at the same level for next year: £35 for individuals, £65 for couples; (£5 for visitors to a single meeting). Moreover, we can now afford ten lecturers for 2009.

New logo

You will soon be seeing our new FDFAS logo based on the design of the emblematic White Horse figure cut into the chalk on Cheriton Hill overlooking Folkestone. We have the permission of the artist, Charles Newington, to adopt his design for this purpose. We hope you like the result.

Lectures

Since the July Newsletter we have enjoyed two contrasting lectures: an intriguing one "In praise of follies" by Celia Fisher on 25 September, and then an enthralling one titled "From pewter plate to megapixel: a short history of photography" by one of our own members, John Woodward, following the AGM on 23 October.



Christopher Melchers and John Woodward

(John kindly donated his fee for his lecture to *The Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust.*)

Visits

It was with regret that our planned weekend trip to Lille and Douai in September had to be cancelled due to lack of sufficient booking numbers. There was no obvious reason why this turned out to be less popular than anticipated, but we will heed this outcome in future visits planning.

However, our visit to the Royal Courts of Justice, Sir John Soane's Museum and Lincoln's Inn on 29 October proved very popular and was enjoyed by all.



Lincoln's Inn guided tour

Our final visit of the year is to The Wallace Collection on 2 December (viewing the Christmas lights during our return journey through the West End).

Website

Do please look at our attractive and informative website (address at head of page), where you will find much to interest you, including reports and photographs of recent events and previews of some of those to come. Our warmest thanks again go to Tony Hill for continuing to devote so much time and computer skill to this task.

Programme for 2009

Our programme of lectures and visits for 2009 is all arranged and promises a varied and interesting year ahead. Details are contained separately on the enclosed sheet, which you may find convenient to pin on notice boards at home.

Other visit opportunities

Some of you may also be interested in joining one of the following visits for which we have received invitations:

22-26 April: NADFAS Kent Area Tour to Madrid, including a day in Toledo;

6-10 May: Newick (East Sussex) DFAS tour to Dresden to explore Baroque Saxony.

Please contact Brin Hughes on 010303 264470 if you would like more details.

Folkestone Literary Festival

During the Folkestone Literary Festival held during 1-9 November, FDFAS mounted an attractive display stand at the entrance to the lecture theatre in the Folkestone Academy. This featured information about NADFAS itself and some of our neighbouring Societies in Kent. Our aim was to help attract additional members. We hope to have achieved some success!



Our stand at the Literary Festival

Contributions to next Newsletter

The previous article provides a good prompt to invite all members - many of whom must be literary-minded! - to consider providing written contributions to feature in the next FDFAS Newsletter. How about reviews of books read, cultural visits made, other events attended, helpful tips, profiles of interesting persons (including some of our own Society members, perhaps) - all, of course with a bearing on FDFAS activities?

Think about it over Christmas and then let one of the committee members know what you have in mind.

Church Recorders

Anne and John Woodward continue to lead our Church Recorders Group that is coming towards the end of its current project in Saltwood Parish Church. The work has been fascinating, with a diversity of new knowledge and sometimes recondite expertise acquired in the fields of memorials, stonework, metalwork, woodwork, textiles, paintings, windows, library and miscellaneous (which includes the organ!).



Paddy Yule and Nigel Thomas studying stained glass

The group is now busy writing up its results with Paddy Yule collating these in the prescribed NADFAS format. The finished record should be complete by early to mid-2009.

Heritage Volunteering and Young Arts

NADFAS encourages its Societies to develop a Heritage Volunteer Group and Young Arts Group. Heritage volunteering involves helping in a non-specialist way to conserve and preserve our heritage through caring for collections, recording documents, guiding and stewarding in museums, National Trust properties, historic houses, libraries and gardens. Young Arts aims to inspire young people with a lasting enthusiasm for the arts and an awareness of our arts heritage and its conservation. FDFAS would like to develop activities in these areas. Would you like to help? If so please let Angela know.

Christmas lecture and social event

Our last lecture this year will take place on 11 December when Paula Nuttall will be telling us - very seasonably - about "The Christmas Story in Renaissance Art". This will be followed by a Christmas social event in The Tower Theatre, for which tickets are available at £2.50 per person.

Festive greetings to all members from the FDFAS Committee.