

Goring Decorative and Fine Arts Society

A member society of NADFAS Registered Charity No. 1100600

www.gadfas.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

June 2016

Dear Members



This year GADFAS is celebrating its 30th Anniversary. It was founded during 1986 by an enthusiastic group of friends in Goring, some of whom are still members, and the first lecture took place at Goring Village Hall in January 1987. We are very grateful to them all for starting GADFAS which has led to our flourishing society. We are having three events to celebrate this anniversary. The first was the visit on 5th May to Hughenden Manor and Chenies Manor which is where Patricia Fay, the founder of NADFAS, held her first meeting. The second is a lunch and musical presentation given by Peter Medhurst on 7th June. The third is a visit to Winchester Cathedral on 3rd October. There will be a tour of the cathedral and sung evensong followed by a supper. I look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

We have enjoyed another busy year of lectures, study days, tours and visits. The lectures are the main focus of GADFAS but all the events we have organised have been well attended. I am very grateful to the members of the committee who do so much to think up and organise our varied programme. Their reports follow in this newsletter. We are always interested in feedback and suggestions from members and are grateful for any help you may feel able to offer.

The good health of GADFAS is indicated by the continuous demand for membership. I would like to welcome warmly all our new members. We are currently full with waiting lists for both sessions.

Both Heritage Volunteers and Church Recorders are inactive at the moment. If there are any members who have a desire to become involved with, or to lead either group, we would like to hear from you. We are continuing to support local Young Arts projects using your gift aid money returned to us by HMRC. The Church Trail at St Thomas's in Goring was successfully launched last year and another one is now planned for St Mary's in Streatley.

We are one of the sponsors of this year's Goring Gap Festival (15th to 19th June) and we are very pleased to support this local event.

The AGM is on Wednesday 15th June. I look forward to seeing you all then and at the reception afterwards. Do come along to support your committee.

Best wishes

Diana Wingfield
Chairman



Doddington Hall (see page 2)

TOURS: HOME AND ABROAD – Honor Juniper

May 2015 saw twenty-three members of GADFAS embarking on a tour of Madrid, Toledo, Segovia and El Escorial, accompanied by an excellent Spanish guide, Mauricio Larumbe. We had a full programme of cathedrals, museums, galleries and palaces, and were able to sample a wide range of Spanish culture and cuisine within walking distance of our Madrid hotel.

This was followed in October by an outstanding tour of Lincolnshire, led by Dr David Bostwick (the third time he has accompanied us). Amongst the places we visited were Lincoln Cathedral, Stamford, Burghley House, Belton House, Southwell Minster and Doddington Hall. A highlight of the tour was tea at David's home nearby where we were able to admire his fine collection of antiques.



Segovia Cathedral

Our 2016 overseas tour is to Croatia in May. We will be visiting Zagreb and Dubrovnik, accompanied by Nirvana Romell who was born in Zagreb but now lives in England and is a NADFAS lecturer.

The 2016 autumn tour will be with David Bostwick, staying in York and visiting places in North Yorkshire. In May 2017 we plan to visit the Bouche du Rhone. Full details can be viewed on the 'Tours' page of the GADFAS website (gadfas.org.uk).

YOUNG ARTS REPORT – Irene Matthews



A Geoffrey Field pupil using an iPad to promote confidence in drawing techniques

The latter part of 2015 saw the continuation of the Young Arts programmes in several local schools, including Goring Church of England School, Benson Primary School, Langtree School and the Geoffrey Field Junior School in Reading.

The projects covered a wide variety of subjects: a school mural; an introduction to the use of fabrics in modern fashion design culminating with a fashion show; and a specialist tutorial in the use of digital techniques to produce a creative output 'a la David Hockney'.

All the projects are intended to stimulate the creativity of the children.

The focus for 2016, while continuing with the schools work, is to widen the type of programmes GADFAS is able to support. We have three new ventures ongoing. A donation has been made to The Goring Arts Festival for running workshops for young people – do look out for the festival programme. We will be supporting the Wallingford Museum by providing funding for art materials which will be used at workshops for local children to encourage them to create 'cartoon' characters based on local historic people. For teenagers we are offering funds to the Thames Valley Partnership 'Managing Change' workshops. These workshops are offered to vulnerable young people to show how a creative intervention can bring about a change in behaviour.

REPORT FROM THE VISITS SECRETARY – Elspeth Lockwood

Our season began with lovely Snowhill Manor in glorious autumn sunshine and, in complete contrast, a privileged visit to the House of Lords with Lord Bradshaw. The World of Wedgwood was a fascinating day and we certainly experienced 'Glamour and Glitz' at our recent visit to Eltham Palace and Ranger's House. As I write, Hughenden Manor and Chenies Manor are still to be enjoyed and a day in Georgian Bath with NADFAS lecturer, Jane Tapley, to complement our Study Day awaits. The Wallace Collection completes this year's programme. I hope many of you will have some lovely memories of these visits.

Our new season is in the course of planning and will commence with a special visit for our 30th Anniversary to Winchester Cathedral with sung evensong and supper in the Paul Woodhouse Suite. I hope you can join us to celebrate this special occasion. Plans are in progress for the 'Beyond Caravaggio' Exhibition in December at the National Gallery, Hogarth House and Chiswick House, the Globe and Tate Modern, arranged especially for NADFAS members, lovely Rodmarton Manor and a day in Portsmouth for the Mary Rose Museum – and perhaps a few other surprises too during the year!

I hope you join us and enjoy the company of friends on our day visits – they are lovely social occasions, informative and, I hope, memorable.



Eltham Palace Visit



Michelangelo Study Day: Leslie Primo

STUDY DAYS – Ann Keighley

The Life and Works of Michelangelo – 30 October 2015

Lecturer: Leslie Primo

Following the 450th Anniversary of the death of the great renaissance sculptor and artist, Michelangelo, a full house of 77 members enjoyed a Study Day covering three one-hour lectures. The first lecture took us through Michelangelo's early life and tutelage, whilst the second lecture covered his life as a sculptor and some of his great projects such as the painting of the Sistine Chapel. The third lecture looked at Michelangelo's later drawings and sculptures.

An excellent day with an Italian-themed lunch with wine, enjoyed by us all.

Bath – A World Heritage City – From Roman and Georgian Times to the Present Day – 11 March 2016

Lecturer: Jane Tapley

Jane Tapley gave us a wonderful Study Day looking at the city of Bath from Roman times through Georgian times to the present day, with large numbers of tourists visiting the city from all over the world. Jane looked at the history of the spa and the building of the original walled city with the local honey-coloured stone. In her second lecture Jane discussed the Georgian theatres and finally, in her third lecture, entertained us with an insight into the Georgian house and the fascinating dining habits of the period. An enjoyable day including buffet lunch for all our Members.

Following this Study Day a visit to Bath has been arranged by our Visits Secretary.

REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMME SECRETARY – Marion Hill

September 2015 – June 2017

We try to relate lectures and visits to places of interest and major current exhibitions whenever possible. Last September Spanish art expert Gail Turner shared her knowledge of Goya in preparation for our December visit to the National Gallery's exhibition 'Goya's Portraits' and this May Stephen Duffy, senior curator at the Wallace Collection, tells the fascinating story of the Collection's formation in preparation for a visit later this year.

In 2015 Dulwich Picture Gallery's Eric Ravilious Exhibition proved to be one of their most popular and was curated by lecturer and writer James Russell who spoke to us on Ravilious last October. He will return to GADFAS in February 2017 to explore the relationship between American artist Georgia O'Keeffe and the colourful landscape of New Mexico's mountains, desert, adobe churches and sun-bleached bones. It will be possible this summer to see these paintings in the forthcoming Tate Modern Exhibition which opens in July. In November we shall look at the work of a very different American artist, Dale Chihuly, the superstar of the glass world, whose sculptures are extravagant, colourful and spectacular. His 27ft-high chandelier can be seen on arrival at the V&A Museum.

British artists and designers were evident in many of our lectures this year. 'More than Meets the Eye' by Jo Walton, showed how British artists and architects in both World Wars successfully camouflaged important landmarks. Sir Terence Conran refers to Thomas Heatherwick as 'The Leonardo of our Times', and Anthea Streeter's lecture showed clearly why this designer's projects are so inspirational.

In April Antony Penrose, the son of Surrealist painter Roland Penrose and American War photographer Lee Miller, described what life was like living at Farley Farm, their Sussex home. This was frequented regularly by many famous Surrealist and Modern artists including Picasso.

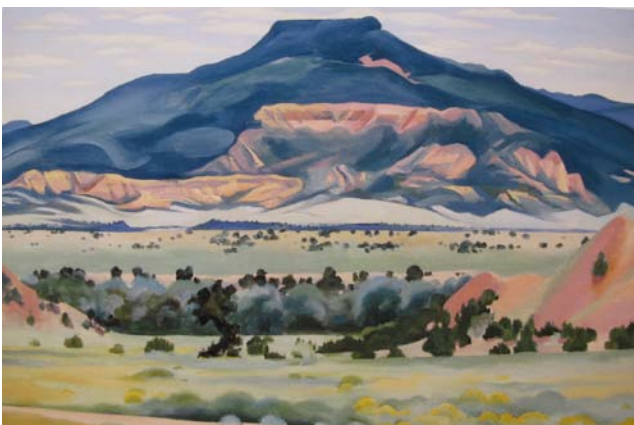
In June contemporary bookbinder Dominic Riley will talk about his work which is highly regarded by collectors. The Bodleian in Oxford has recently purchased his prize-winning binding for their Library. Dame Laura Knight, the subject of October's lecture, was the first female artist to be elected a Royal Academician since the 18th century and was part of the St Ives and Staithes group of painters as well as a War artist and painter of theatre, circus and ballet performers.

Croatian lecturer Nirvana Romell gave a most informative lecture in March on 'The History of the Balkans' and she will be the guide for our May GADFAS tour to Croatia. In anticipation of next year's Provence tour in March, Monica Bohm-Duchen will explain how 'The Lure of the Midi' has attracted Modern artists to the South of France, seduced by its intense light and sensual colours.

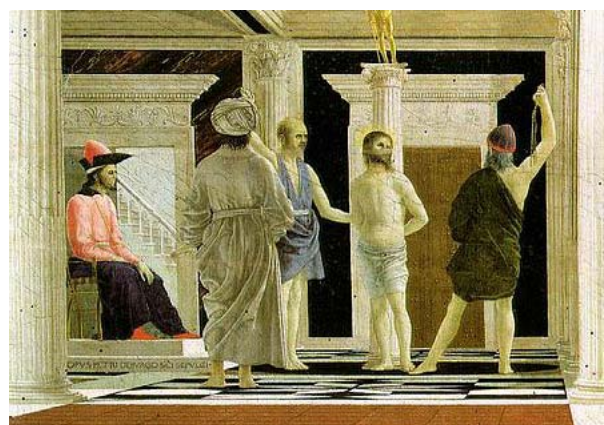
Two very different artists are celebrated in our new programme from September 2016. Early Italian Renaissance artist, Piero della Francesca, was born 600 years ago and is the subject of September's lecture by Shirley Smith and, next April, popular speaker Douglas Skeggs returns to Goring in the year David Hockney celebrates his 80th birthday, when Tate Britain marks the occasion with a new exhibition of his work where his love of ingenious visual devices has led him to experiment with a whole range of techniques.

It seems appropriate that the subject for our first lecture in 2017 will be 'The History of the Sundial' which outstrips the clock by at least 2000 years. Last November our musical lecture on 'The History of the Harp' by Sarah Deere-Jones traced the history of one of the world's most ancient musical instruments while demonstrating and playing on her own reproduction and antique harps. We shall welcome her back in November 2017 when, using illustrations from medieval manuscripts and readings from literature of the period, she will bring alive the spirit and joy of a medieval Christmas and perform appropriate haunting songs and carols.

In May 2017 'The Great Twelve' will provide an introduction to the Senior Livery Companies of the City of London, originating in medieval times; and we hope that both this lecture and the following one in June 'The Good Life – Gimson and the Barnsleys: Inventing the Cotswold Style', which was inspired by William Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement, will be preparation for some more connecting visits for our members to look forward to next summer.



Georgia O'Keeffe 'My Front Yard, Summer 1941'



Piero della Francesca 'The Flagellation' (detail)