



# Goring Decorative and Fine Arts Society

A member society of NADFAS Registered Charity No. 1100600

[www.gadfas.org.uk](http://www.gadfas.org.uk)

## NEWSLETTER

June 2017

Dear Members



This is my third and last letter to you and, as I'm sure many Chairmen must wonder, where have the past three years gone? It seemed a daunting task three years ago but it has proved to be a very enjoyable one, made all the easier by the support I have received from the Committee and also from you the members. I thank you all for your support and I hope you will give the same support to my successor, Cornelia Hayes.

Last year was the year of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations and the special events were strongly supported by members. The lunch in June saw a packed village hall with a recital by Peter Medhurst and we had a full coach for the visit to Winchester in October. Thank you to those involved in the organisation of those events.

This year, NADFAS has decided to rebrand itself and the new name, The Arts Society, has been greeted with general approval. We will be changing our name from GADFAS to The Arts Society Goring, which is the name NADFAS would like us to adopt. We will be putting the name change in a resolution at the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> June and hope as many of you as possible will come to the meeting and vote. The changes will come in later in the year. No doubt we will be referred to as GADFAS for quite some time to come.

We have had a busy year of well-attended lectures, study days and visits which I hope has been as rewarding for those attending them as it has been for those organising them. We are always interested to have suggestions from members – it is your Society. There is a suggestions book available on the stage at lectures for you to put forward any ideas you may have for lectures, visits or study days. Our membership is currently full and I would like to warmly welcome those who have joined this year.

Our home in Goring, the Village Hall, has been spruced up this year and is looking very smart. Lecturers often make favourable comments about the Hall and we are fortunate that it is so well looked after. We were very pleased to be able to make a contribution towards the restoration of the Clock Tower.

Reports from Committee members will be found in the pages that follow. I would like to thank them all for their ideas, hard work and dedication to GADFAS. They are all volunteers who give generously of their time to the Society and it has been a pleasure to work with them.

Best wishes

**Diana Wingfield**  
Chairman



*Charleston, country home of  
the Bloomsbury Group*

## **GADFAS ON TOUR 2016 – Honor Juniper**

In May twenty-four members flew to Croatia to visit Zagreb and Dubrovnik. We were led by Nirvana Romell, herself a Croatian national, with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the art and history of her homeland. We enjoyed an excellent mix of art, architecture, good food and fine hotels. Highlights included a day in the Zagorje, (the hinterland north of Zagreb), richly decorated churches and the beautiful and historic city of Dubrovnik. We rounded off the tour with a visit to the Račić Mausoleum in Cavtat and a farewell lunch on the waterfront.



*Dubrovnik*



*York Minster*

Our autumn visit was to York. We were guided for a fourth year by David Bostwick. David showed us a wide range of art and architecture of North Yorkshire, and took us to rarely visited gems that other people do not have an opportunity to see. Our itinerary included York Minster, Beningborough Hall, the Rievaulx terrace, and Burton Agnes Hall.

The overseas tour for 2017 is to the Bouche du Rhône, with Nirvana Romell in May, followed by a UK tour to Kent in October. We also plan to visit Friuli in May 2018. Fuller accounts of our tours past and present can be found on the GADFAS website on the 'Tours' page.

## **YOUNG ARTS REPORT – Irene Matthews**

2016 was a busy year. Several school projects were completed covering a wide variety of activities. In addition we were able to support Wallingford Museum's events for local children and The Thames Valley Partnership's work with disaffected youngsters.

For 2017, continuing our aim of fostering artistic activities for young people, we will be seeking to work with more local schools, including Crowmarsh and Whitchurch primary schools, St John's School in Wallingford and Manor School in Didcot. For the older children, Didcot Girls' School intends to run printmaking workshops this spring and summer for children who need special attention.

The Art Room continues to appreciate the generous donations given by our members. A special donation, given by an individual member, enabled them to purchase a sewing machine which was used under supervision by the older children who produced some very unusual and decorative pieces of work (see photo). These were then displayed at the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot, with other work shown at Didcot Railway Station. Seeing their work on display is very rewarding for children and parents.



Other projects are being considered and if any members would like to suggest new places please do contact me or any member of the Committee.



## REPORT FROM THE VISITS SECRETARY – Elspeth Lockwood

2016, as we know, was the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of GADFAS and, to celebrate this, our first visit of the season was Winchester Cathedral (see photo). We began with tours with our very knowledgeable guides, followed by Sung Evensong, and our day ended with supper in the Paul Woodhouse Suite. A very special occasion to celebrate a memorable milestone in our Society.

Our Christmas visits are always popular and this year the 'Beyond Caravaggio' Exhibition at the National Gallery was enjoyed by all. Shakespeare's Globe and Tate Modern proved a very popular and busy day. Despite our delayed arrival we caught up with our schedule and our day began with a tour of the Globe Theatre, followed by a fascinating tour of the Exhibition, lunch in The Swan Restaurant, and ending with a very interesting demonstration of how ladies dressed in Shakespeare's day. Our somewhat brief tour of Tate Modern with our exceptional guides ended a very full and interesting day.

As I write, we still have to enjoy British Art at Home: Charleston and Farley Farm House, Drapers Hall and the David Hockney Exhibition at the Tate Britain, our day at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and, to complete our season, the beautiful Manor Houses and Gardens of Rodmarton and Owlpen. A very varied and, hopefully, memorable programme for you all to enjoy. Many of these visits have followed lectures, which we always try to do if possible.



Owlpen Manor

Our new season will commence with The Foundling Museum and Hogarth House in October and our Christmas visit this year will be to The American Museum in Bath and the Bath Christmas Market. Other visits to be enjoyed will be a London Walk of St Pancras and Kings Cross Station (with the ever-popular Andrew Davies), Highclere Castle and a few more in the course of planning **to be announced shortly**.

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.

## REPORT FROM THE EVENTS SECRETARY – Ann Keighley

On a beautiful sunny day on 7 June GADFAS celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a buffet lunch in Goring Village Hall, which was decorated with blue and white bunting and balloons, as well as table settings carrying through the theme of the NADFAS colours. The event was attended by some founder members of GADFAS, together with past Chairmen and committee members. June Robinson, NADFAS National Chairman, was our Guest of Honour and she and Diana opened the afternoon celebration with a toast to 30 years of GADFAS and the cutting of our anniversary cake. Much chatter and laughter could be heard during the afternoon with 112 members enjoying a delicious lunch and wine whilst catching up with friends.

After lunch we were treated to a musical presentation by NADFAS lecturer, Peter Medhurst, who was accompanied on the piano by Jeremy Limb. Their programme was entitled 'The Lure of Italy' and gave us a flavour of the many famous composers who have visited Italy over the years. Peter went on to introduce a range of musical compositions that had modelled themselves on Italian examples. The finale was the Nightmare Song from *Iolanthe* by Gilbert and Sullivan, which was received with much enthusiasm, laughter and applause from everyone who attended. Our afternoon concluded with closing remarks from Pamela Elder, Wyvern Area Chairman and Diana. A memorable and enjoyable occasion to celebrate 30 years of GADFAS.



## **STUDY DAYS – Ann Keighley**

### **Forty Shades of Green: Gardening in Ireland, Past and Present – 18 November 2016**

**Lecturer: Tom Duncan**

Irish Gardens have undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years and Tom Duncan, one of the most popular NADFAS lecturers, gave us a wonderful and amusing study day tracing the evolution of both landscape and domestic gardening in Ireland from the late seventeenth century up to today.

Tom illustrated his lectures with some beautiful Irish gardens which included Powerscourt, Carton and Birr Castle, as well as some contemporary gardens such as Helen Dillon's in Dublin. An enjoyable study day with a buffet lunch, which was enjoyed by 57 members. We were delighted to welcome Tom back to Goring after a gap of seven years.

### **Design, Invention, Creation: the Multiple lives of Leonardo da Vinci – 31 March 2017**

**Lecturer: Leslie Primo**

As May 2019 will be the 500<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death, a Study Day with three one-hour lectures by returning lecturer, Leslie Primo, gave us the opportunity to explore this Renaissance icon. We looked at Leonardo's early life and tutelage in the workshop of Andrea del Verrocchio as well as examining some of his earliest commissions. Our second lecture looked at Leonardo's patrons and his fascination with the Madonna and Child grouping and portraits. Finally we looked at Leonardo's life of invention and fascination by all living things including mechanics generally and the mechanics of flight. An excellent study day attended by 70 members with an Italian-themed buffet lunch enjoyed by us all.

## **REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMME SECRETARY – Jenny Plumb**

My favourite museum is the Victoria and Albert in South Kensington. As you enter, up above your head is a glorious Dale Chihuly glass chandelier. Last November, we were fortunate to hear Charles Hajdmach's lecture on 'Dale Chihuly, The World's Foremost Glass Artist' – a whole new perspective on glass and light.

Light seemed to be a theme running through many of our lecture programmes. Shirley Smith took us into the countryside where Piero Della Francesca painted, comparing the artists in Northern Europe to those living in Italy. Kevin Karney brought light and time into perspective with his talk on 'The Life and Times of the Sundial'. This was peppered with pictures of local sundials which he had visited on the day before our lecture making the subject all the more tangible. James Russell exposed us to Georgia O'Keeffe and the light of New Mexico. Douglas Skeggs left us with a warm glow covering Hockney's vast body of work currently available to see in a superb exhibition at Tate Britain.

In May, Fenella Billington talked to us about 'The Great Twelve – An Introduction to the Senior Livery Companies of the City of London' and beautiful Arts and Crafts furniture will be brought to life under the guidance of Anne Anderson in her June lecture.

The new programme starts in September with a lecture by Lt.Col. Dick Bolton, who is the longest-serving guide at Canterbury Cathedral. He is going to introduce us to 'Kent – The Gateway and Garden of England'. In October, we'll have Jennifer Wearden treat us to the finer details of 'Opus Anglicanum', recently the subject of a blockbuster exhibition at the V&A. In November, Sarah Deere-Jones will entertain us with her wonderful instruments as she presents her lecture 'Sing We Yule – A Musical Portrait of a Medieval Christmas'. The New Year will be heralded by Tom Duncan introducing us to 'Islam and the Mosque' and, in February, Nirvana Romell will enlighten us on the 'Patriarchs of Aquileia in Italy'. On a lighter note, Yasha Beresiner will be introducing us to 'The Fascinating World of Playing Cards' in March. Then, in April, Liz Merry will expose us to the life and works of Beatrix Potter. She was a passionate amateur naturalist who painted flora and fauna long before her children's stories became famous. As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Royal Academy, May will have us visiting the Academy in a lecture by Ian Swankie. Finally, in June, Gavin Plumley's lecture will transport us to Vienna as guests of 'The Two Gustavs – Mahler and Klimt'.



*Adele Bloch-Bauer by Gustav Klimt*