



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

A lot has happened since our last newsletter and one of those things was our final Christmas lunch. Daphne Smith has spoiled us hugely with such delicious lunches that we feel we cannot ask anyone to take over from her. However, we will still be celebrating Christmas in some other way and we will let you know what that is in due course. Looking ahead we have a busy few months with firstly our trip to Holland to see, among other things, the tulips at Keukenhof and Amsterdam, 2 garden visits in June (see inside for details) and of course all our interesting lectures. Amazingly this will be the last newsletter with me as Chairman as three years have flown by and it is now time for me to hand over to Jackie at our AGM in May.

Dutch trip - The Dutch Masters & Keukenhof 28th April – 2nd May 2019

Staying in The Hague we will visit the Keukenhof Flower Festival, the Royal Delft Porcelain Factory, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and many other things. This trip is now full, but I only have a small waiting list so if you are interested do put your name down as a lot can happen between now and next April. Contact Ally for details.

Ally Buxton

YOUNG ARTS

25th Anniversary Celebrations

Our 25th Anniversary COFFEE AND CAKES morning on 16th October was an uplifting and delightful event!



This was due mainly to the choir and violin group of our local primary school, Langley Fitzurse, entertaining us. Their talent, enthusiasm and, above all, their joy shone through in their performance.

It was good to see that our Young Arts money has been spent to such good effect!

AND the cakes were scrumptious.....

Young Arts Projects - The Arts Society Kington Langley

“Enriching lives through the Arts”

As funding for the Arts in schools has been drastically cut our sponsorship is needed more than ever. Positive Outcomes of our sponsorship this year has been an easier and more effective partnership with our local schools, which has led to more young people and teachers having opportunities to explore the arts effectively.



Abbeyfield School Art Exhibit

Abbeyfield School Art and Photography Exhibition 8th–11th October 2018

During the private view the students were able to show their families, Art Society members and The Mayor what they had achieved and the rationale behind their work.

Visitors to the Town Hall were very surprised at the quality and range of work on view

Golden Lecture sponsored by The Arts Society Kington Langley in association with the Wessex Area Committee



The Fine Art of Photography

Lecturer Brian Stater

Held at Hardenhuish School, Chippenham this Golden lecture also fitted into the Hardenhuish Festival of Photography.



His initial question of “Should we accept that the very best photographs can be regarded as Fine Art?” led Brian to consider the four main themes in Fine Art: Portrait, Landscape, Still Life and The Human Condition. He then proceeded to demonstrate how photography can successfully respond to these topics.

Arts Week at Hardenhuish School

Hardenhuish School celebrated its artistic talents as it held its very first Arts Week. This event was generously sponsored by The Arts Society Kington Langley, and during the week, the School’s Art Department ran a number of art activities and events including a ceramics session for staff, competitions and an Art Trail, as well as workshops for pupils in stencilling, wire sculpting, ceramics and intaglio printmaking. Amazing visiting artists introduced pupils to a huge range of new techniques and ideas and the stunning results of their hard work were on display at the Summer Art Exhibition on the Thursday evening.

Screen printing workshops at Kington Fitzurse Church of England Primary School, Kington Langley Year groups 4,5 &6 explored themes of Mayan Culture and WW11

In discussion with James Osler and Liz Howe we discovered that a screen-printing workshop would fit in extremely well with the curriculum both as far as developing arts skills were concerned and to illustrate two different topics in KS2. As Simon Tozer, the artist says: "Like other non-digital print techniques, the process encourages images that are graphic and quite simple in form. In screen printing each picture is created in layers as a series of separate drawings onto film." The students were able to engage with the artist and a new graphic technique to develop their history projects

Jackie Jones

VISITS

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Our long-awaited tour of Westminster Abbey by the Purcell Club took place in January. The club is made up of former choristers from the Abbey and they guided us round telling us not only its history from its Benedictine origins to its latest addition of a stained-glass window by Hockney but also singing a collection of choral music by Purcell through to a Russian traditional song. We were also treated to an organ recital. It was a truly wonderful experience to be there with the Abbey empty of tourists yet maintaining its splendid gothic atmosphere.

Ally Buxton



GARDEN VISITS FOR 2019



A slight change this year: 2 visits in June, both full day, one away by coach, one local by car.

Wednesday 12 June – travel by coach to visit NT property BARRINGTON COURT near Ilminster in Somerset in the morning. The magnificent house is unfurnished but has stunning interiors and the lovely 2 acre garden, about which we shall have a talk by the Head Gardener, is Gertrude Jekyll inspired. Coffee on arrival included. Sandwich lunch included in local pub. That afternoon we shall visit a superb private garden at Bradon Farm, with an introductory talk from owner Mrs Deborah Jones, who created it 15 years ago. She will also offer us tea.

Cost £33 for NT members. If not a NT member add £12.10 for entrance fees to Barrington.

Booking at our April meeting.

Tuesday 25 June – self drive to 2 lovely gardens in Doynton, nr Wick, Bristol, BS30 5SR

In the morning we shall visit the Old Rectory, owned by Mr and Mrs Clive Humby, with an introductory talk by the Head Gardener. Parking will be possible all day at Doynton House.

You can picnic at lunchtime in the Rectory arboretum field or visit the local pub for lunch.

In the afternoon we visit Doynton House, owners Mr and Mrs Lindsey-Clark, followed by tea and cakes baked by Mrs Lindsey-Clark. The Head Gardener will start the visit with a talk.

Cost £15 per person. Booking at our May meeting.

Carolyn Adams

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY

FEBRUARY 2019 ROGER MITCHELL

THE COUNTRY HOUSE IN 20TH CENTURY

Roger Mitchell gave us a splendidly enjoyable day touring country houses, in the course of which he passed on to us a huge amount of information dispensed with a humorous and light touch. Roger, the most engaging and inspiring of speakers, said that he preferred to regard the day as a series of seminars, rather than lectures, and so he welcomed questions, comments and contributions, an invitation to which members responded with enthusiasm. He also tested our wits by asking us to guess the origins of some unusual and deceptive buildings.

The break for a most delicious lunch provided by Daphne Smith with Diane Beverley's invaluable support gave further opportunity for conversation and the exchange of information, as well as a chance to examine Roger's extensive collection of guide books of the various houses.



Roger Mitchell sharing his library

Susie Weaver

NOTES ON LECTURES FROM APRIL 2019 TO JULY 2019

Tuesday 2nd April 2019

THE ENGLISH COUNTRY CHURCH: THE PRE-CHRISTIANS TO THE TUDORS

Nicholas Henderson trained for the Anglican ministry at Ripon Hall in Oxford and subsequently worked at Coventry Cathedral and in Central Africa. He lives locally and this is his first visit.

Tuesday 7th May 2019

10.30am Annual General Meeting

VINCENT VANGOGH: EMOTION IN PAINT

Eveline Eaton is a tour guide to Berlin, Munich and Dresden and is chairman of the Dresden Trust which is dedicated to the rebuilding of that city. This is her fourth visit to our society.

Tuesday 4th June 2019

THE GENTLE ART OF MAKING ENEMIES

Douglas Skeggs will be familiar to most of our members as he has lectured to us on numerous occasions since his first visit in 1994! He is also a published author, an artist and TV presenter.

Tuesday 2nd July 2019

FOOD AND ART THROUGH THE AGES

A relative newcomer to the Arts Society, Tasha Marks is an award winning food historian and artist who explores the relationship between food, art and history. Her practice AVM Curiosities promotes this art form.

For details of past and future visits, photos, contact details of the committee and for an invaluable source of information of all our activities, don't forget to visit our website www.kldfas.co.uk