



LeDFAS Anniversary newsletter April 2017

Dear member

At our last meeting we celebrated our 20th anniversary as a society. Our president, June Robinson, who helped found the society, gave a short talk and then helped John Andrews cut the superb cake (baked by Mary Andrews) to go with the drinks. We had a most enjoyable lecture by John Ericson, on the subject of "art inspired by wine." In the words of one member it was "a wonderful evening at every level, thank you for the wine and cake."



Over 100 of us have tickets to the Anniversary lunch (and lecture) at St John's School on Saturday (8th) which starts with a coffee reception at 10.15am.

We experienced a sad day last week when we booked our future speakers in central Hall, Westminster (see below). It took me ages to get back to Waterloo Station due to the heavy security, a short while after the tragic events on Westminster Bridge - our thoughts are with the friends and families of the dead and injured.

Best wishes
Huw Jenkins

This month's Talk

Wednesday 12 April talk: Not just Smoke and Mirrors - The Magical Art of Camouflage in Warfare; Nicholas Reed

Nicholas Reed tells us that camouflaging of ships in wartime was invented 100 years ago, in 1917, by the artist Norman Wilkinson. But it was a professional conjurer who accomplished the impossible by hiding the Suez Canal in WW2. Find out how he did it!



Choosing our future speakers

A week ago Kathy Bucknall, John Andrews and I had a very successful day choosing our speakers for part of 2018 and early in 2019. We will circulate a list once the contracts have been signed (they have all been posted). As promised we have booked Peter Medhurst, who delighted us with Vivaldi in February, who will be talking to us in December 2018 on "That Pretty German Toy – musings on the Christmas Tree."

Christmas Carol Concert: a date for your diary

Last year's concert was a success and also raised a large sum of money for the parish church. We have booked the Brandenburg brass and singers for Tuesday 19 December.

A special day trip to Knebworth House on Monday 8 May

We are going to Knebworth House, Hertfordshire where we have an exclusive guided tour of the Tudor/Victoria gothic house that has been owned by one family for 500 years. Much of the interior was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. We will also visit the British Raj exhibition (put together to mark the centenary of the great Delhi Durbar of 1877). Although we are fully booked a couple of people may have to miss it. Tell Gilly Coombes if you are interested in going.

Mary Rose visit report

A gloriously sunny day (on 2 March!) enhanced our enjoyment of a visit to the recently re-vamped Mary Rose Exhibition in Portsmouth Dockyard. We had excellent, knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides. Several of us had time for a trip round the harbour and we all enjoyed a trip to the science lab to learn about the artefacts found on the sea bed - many of which were now beautifully displayed in the exhibition.

Two Temple Place and Sussex Modernism exhibition report

A group of us travelled up to London for a guided tour of Two Temple Place, the Gothic mansion on the Victoria Embankment overlooking the River Thames, which was originally built for William Waldorf Astor, of New York Waldorf Astoria fame. Following a light lunch in the café we explored this year's exhibition - **Sussex Modernism: Retreat and Rebellion**. It examines why radical artists and writers were drawn to the rolling hills, seaside resorts, and quaint villages of Sussex in the first half of the 20th century. In the communities they created, artistic innovation ran hand-in-hand with political, sexual and domestic experimentation. A fuller report is on the news page of our website. Next year's 2TP exhibition (January to April) will be the 'Age of Jazz' – a Bulldog Trust collaboration with **The Arts Society** (us!).

Do you need a lift to a LeDFAS meeting?

So far no one has said they need lifts to get to lectures. We have a small group of members who are willing to offer lifts to LeDFAS meetings. If you want help email info@ledfas.org.uk.

LeDFAS Istria tour 19 to 26 September 2017

The guided tour to Istria is fully booked; contact Gilly Coombes if you might be interested in knowing if there are any cancellations nearer the time of the holiday.

Review of March talk: Art Inspired by Wine by John Ericson

Over 70 members gave feedback on line about the lecture.

John started with a joke that got everybody laughing, and the humour continued throughout his talk. Pictures of the infant Bacchus, and some cartoons on the subject of the over-enjoyment of wine, were particularly amusing. He showed us some beautiful decanters and interesting corkscrews, noting that there are more than 300 British corkscrew patents. He continued by talking about the importance of wine labels, which have a great influence on which bottles we choose to buy. Château Mouton Rothschild has invited famous artists to contribute artworks for its labels, which have become collectables. We all learned a lot about wine and its accessories.

Shrewsbury and the Potteries tour 25 to 29 September with Epsom DFAS

Epsom DFAS have a few spare places on their September tour.

Grand Opera Gala, Royal Festival Hall on Saturday 3 June at 7.30 pm

The LCA have invited LeDFAS members to join them when The Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus, and three star soloists, perform the great choruses and arias from the world's best-loved operas.

Exhibition at the Lightbox on Sidney Sime: Artist and Philosopher

NADFAS is supporting an exhibition at the Lightbox, Woking (April 15 to May 28) on Sidney Sime, Artist and Philosopher. Entry is free.

Music in local churches

There is music on Wednesdays (**Christ Church**) and Thursdays (**Leatherhead Methodist Church**).

Leatherhead Drama Festival – 2017 Public Appeal

This year the Leatherhead Drama Festival (LDF) celebrates its 14th year. From 1 to 13 May there will be 6 evenings of Junior and 4 of Adult one act plays, culminating in the Gala Night. The Festival stimulates amateur drama talent. Mole Valley DC has no budget for arts grants. LeDFAS and a number of our members made contributions last year. The Festival is appealing to individuals, and clubs to donate £10, or more if they can, to the 14 Festival. Donors contributing by 10 April will be listed in the Friends of the Festival Roll of Honour to be printed in their prestigious Souvenir Programme. LeDFAS will make a contribution this year.

Leatherhead Theatre

Event screenings Art highlights include:

nt live: Twelfth Night on Thursday 6 April at 7.00pm

Royal Opera House: Jewels on Tuesday 11 April at 7.15pm

Australian Ballet: Coppelia on Wednesday 19 April at 7.15pm

nt live: Rosencrantz and guildenstern are dead on Thursday 20 April at 7.00pm

rsc live: Julius Caesar on Wednesday 26 April at 7.00pm

An audience with Ian Waite and Natalie Lowe on Sunday 30 April at 7.30pm

Contact the theatre box office on 01372 365132 for tickets

Wednesday 10 May 2017: The Art of the Poster; Andrew Davies

Andrew Davies, one of NADFAS's most popular speakers, gives our talk on "The Art of the Poster". He will show examples such as "Your Country Needs You", "Careless Talk Costs Lives", "Pears Bubbles Soap", the "Bisto Kids", the Guinness Toucan, and many more. The British poster has informed, entertained and instructed us ever since Toulouse-Lautrec, and the arrival of the colour poster, showed what was possible.

