



ADFAS Situations Vacant

With the AGM in September on the horizon we are looking to recruit...

- Committee Members - need good & willingness to do tasks
- Treasurer - full training given but numeracy essential
- Newsletter Editor - full training given; need to be able to work to deadlines, literacy is essential... and prove reading ability important

Interested? Please see The Chairman



Alton College Scholarships

After receiving applications from those who have embarked on the one-year art foundation course, interviews were held, three applicants were selected and they were presented with their awards on 8 February.

The successful students this year are Zoe Burgess, Marnie Glue and Camilla Langdon and pictured here are Zoe and Marnie with Peter Wilson, who stood in for our Chairman at the Award Presentation organised by the College Foundation, which is a charity formed to assist students at the College. As in previous years we anticipate 'our' scholars will attend one of our regular meetings to show their work and talk to members before our lecture.

Alton College was opened in 1978 and has an enviable reputation in education circles. The Foundation has been making awards since 2002 and the total number of awards since then is 293 of which 38 have been funded by ADFAS. Initially we provided two per year but we increased this to three in 2012.

ALTON DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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New Chairman at the Helm



Many will have noticed that as of the last AGM we have a new Chairman, John Harrap. At the meeting, the new chairman thanked the members for entrusting him with the honour of serving as their leader for the next 3 years. He complimented the members on the success of the Society, but said that his aim with their help was to make it even better. He expressed the hope that members would not hesitate to share their thoughts

with him about the future of the society.

John lives on the family farm in Bentley. He trained as a solicitor but has spent most of his working life, self-employed, engaged in an engraving business. The firm has supplied many world leaders - from Beijing, through Europe to Washington - with gifts, courtesy of the British Government. Recently he delivered what he expects may be his final consignment of engraved paperweights to a long standing customer, the European Court of Justice.

Dates for your Diary



7th June - Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich

The centrepiece of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site, the classical buildings of the Old Royal Naval College were designed by England's greatest architects and are considered amongst the finest in Europe. Featuring the sumptuous Painted Hall and the neo-classical Chapel, the site has seen a variety of uses, as Greenwich Palace, the Royal Naval Hospital of Seamen and then the Royal Naval College.

19th September - Bowood House & Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire

Bowood is a grade II listed Georgian country house in Wiltshire with interiors by Robert Adam and a garden designed by 'Capability' Brown. Although the greater part of the house was demolished in 1956, there is still enough to see to make it of interest for an ADFAS visit.

Lacock Abbey was a 13th century Augustinian nunnery until the dissolution when it was sold and converted into a residence. The house and the surrounding village of Lacock were given to the National Trust in 1944. The abbey houses the Fox Talbot Museum, devoted to the pioneering work of William Talbot's work in the field of photography.

Bookings via Vanessa MacMahon at our lectures

Forthcoming Lectures



8th May - Alton Maltings Glass in Paintings - Jane Gardiner

This lecture will examine the history of glass, in particular glass drinking vessels, from Roman times up to the 18th century, through a study of paintings. It will cover the remarkable depiction of glass objects in Roman wall-paintings, the revival of fine glassmaking in Venice as seen in the works of Titian, Veronese and Caravaggio, and the prominence of drinking glasses in Dutch 17th century still-life paintings. It will also include scenes of feasting and general conviviality showing the glasses in use; and will compare the painted examples with surviving glass objects.



12th June - Alton Maltings F & F - its Design and History Toby Faber

Since its foundation in 1925, Faber and Faber have built a reputation as one of London's most important literary publishing houses. This lecture traces the history of the company through its illustrations, covers and designs. Early years brought innovations like the Ariel Poems - single poems, beautifully illustrated, sold in their own envelopes. In the 1950s and 1960s, there was an emphasis on typography, led by the firm's art director Berthold Wolpe; his Albertus font is still used on City of London road signs. In the 1980s, the firm started its association with Pentagram, responsible for the ff logo. Along the way, it has employed some of our most celebrated artists as cover illustrators - from Rex Whistler and Barnett Freedman to Peter Blake and Damien Hirst.



Special Interest Day

Thursday 22nd November 2018 - Beech Village Hall The Two Faces of Russia - Moscow & St Petersburg Rosamund Bartlett

Some Russian artists identify with Moscow, others with St Petersburg. What is it that determines their loyalties? The two cities are the two faces of Russia. Like the imperial emblem of the double-headed eagle, they look in different directions - Moscow towards Asia, and St. Petersburg towards Europe. This day will explore the art and architecture of both of these great cities, examining their different characters and ways of life, and looking at how and why they increased and decreased in importance before and after the 1917 Revolution.

Tales of the Desert



Back in November we enjoyed a wonderful day at Beech Village Hall with Sue Rollin who entertained us with the stories of the rediscovery, history and marvels of the two Desert Emporia - Palmyra and Petra. At half time we enjoyed an excellent lunch by Paulette Murray and her team.

We heard that Western adventurers of the 19th century, who were searching for lost antiquities, were believed, by the indigenous peoples, to be simply stealing gold and lost treasures. So, in 1812, to reach ruins of a lost city that he thought could be the Nabataean city of Petra, Swiss adventurer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt had to tell his suspicious guide that he was merely heading for the nearby tomb of Aaron.

But, the Rose Red City was rediscovered as Burckhardt emerged from the Siq and saw the now famous Treasury where legend said that treasure had been hidden in a large urn placed high out of reach. The urn is now riddled with bullet holes where Bedouin have tried to crack it and bring the treasure tumbling down. So, it wasn't only Westerners who were after lost gold. Burckhardt predicted that, after his visit, access to the ruins would become easier. He was right - nowadays knowledgeable guides will happily show one the sights and will even give you "nice price".

Also in 1812, Palmyra was put back on the map by Lady Hester Stanhope who travelled extensively in the Middle East and, on her arrival at Palmyra, was feted as "Queen Hester". Palmyra, like Petra, was ideally located on the trade routes.



It became wealthy and built glorious structures including the Temple of Baalshamin which were fastened to the wall stating the taxes to be paid by all traders and all professions, including the oldest.

Working girls were required to pay a monthly tax of the amount they charged for a single transaction. Clever as, clearly, no self-respecting girl would understate her worth.

Palmyra flourished and peaked around 270 AD. But, as Queen Zenobia expanded the Empire of Palmyra westwards into present day Egypt, she came into conflict with Roman Emperor Aurelian. It did not end well for Palmyra.

Nevertheless, Queen Zenobia was not the last female leader to discover that European powers can get rather upset if you don't do what they want you to.

Jeremy Scott

The Corporate Image



At the national AGM last May, NADFAS changed its name to The Arts Society. It anticipated local societies would also change their name in an attempt to achieve a nationwide corporate image worthy of some 350 societies with some 300,000 members. ADFAS decided not to rush and to wait to and see how things progressed but as over 70% of local societies have already made the change, your committee feel the time is right to adopt the new identity, and will put a motion before the AGM in September to change our name to **The Arts Society Alton**.

Gone will be the days of being confused with the National Flower Arranging Society (NAFAS), although Central Office seem to have overlooked potential confusion with local Art Societies who have, in the case of Alton, been in existence for 80 years. What will it mean for us?

Not a lot if one is honest; there will be a new design on the membership cards, a new logo on the Newsletter and a slightly re-designed website but otherwise it will be business as usual. Even nationally they have retained NADFAS for their bank account and we will be doing the same for the time being - so please make cheque payments to ADFAS as usual.

Happy Birthday to Them... and Us

Alton Decorative and Fine Arts Society reaches the respectable age of 20 this year. Whilst NADFAS also marks its 50th year in 2018, albeit under the new guise as The Arts Society, your committee thought it would be a good thing to celebrate both notable milestones at a summer event.

Accordingly, Bury Court at Bentley has been booked for the evening of Wednesday, 4 July and we have secured the services of Simon Wallfish, who is known as The Singing Cellist to entertain us. With drinks and canapes, hopefully in the delightful gardens, it promises to be one of the social events of the year.

Please make a note in your diary and a flyer will be available to enable you to book tickets at the modest price of £15, but please make your request as soon as possible as space is limited.



ADFAS - Making a Difference

In the words of Head Teacher Mrs Janet Knott at the unveiling of the Selborne Primary School Mosaic last October "We would just like to say what a wonderful project it was for our children to undertake. They were all fully involved with the design process and each child had the satisfaction of putting a piece of the picture into the mosaic. David Bowers of Mosaic Madness was wonderful with the children and was able to get the best out of them in terms of creating the design and understanding the process. We have been left with a great piece of art that shows the values and importance of our school to our children".

ADFAS along with Newton Valence Parish Council funded the cost of the project and whilst a few children appear in our picture, the entire school were there to see it unveiled by Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson.



Interested in Sculpture?

The French sculptor Auguste Rodin (right) is returning to the British Museum, which he visited so frequently in his lifetime. His own works and drawings will be displayed beside some of the Parthenon marbles, which he regarded as the greatest works of art of all time.

Loans coming from Paris, for the exhibition Rodin and the Art of Ancient Greece at the British Museum (26 April-29 July 2018) will include Rodin's own copy of his most famous sculpture, The Kiss, a work seen as shockingly erotic in his day.

The exhibition will recreate the effect Rodin himself sought in displays in his studio, where he showed his new works side by side with classical sculptures. He left the entire contents of his home and studio to the French state on his death in 1917 and loans from Paris will include some of the fragments of antique marble he collected.

Creating the exhibition will involve partly emptying one of the British Museum's most popular and most controversial galleries, built to house the Parthenon marbles stripped from the Acropolis in Athens by Lord Elgin in the early 19th century. Their arrival in the UK was contentious then and has been ever since, with repeated demands from the Greek authorities for their return.



It seems Rodin never actually visited Greece and his knowledge of the Parthenon came from books, and the sculptures in the Louvre and the British Museum. He first visited the Bloomsbury museum in 1881, and returned at least 15 times. In 1902 he said 'in my spare time I simply haunt the British Museum'. His last visit was a few months before his death on 17 November 1917.