



BLACKWATER

Decorative & Fine Arts Society

NEWSLETTER

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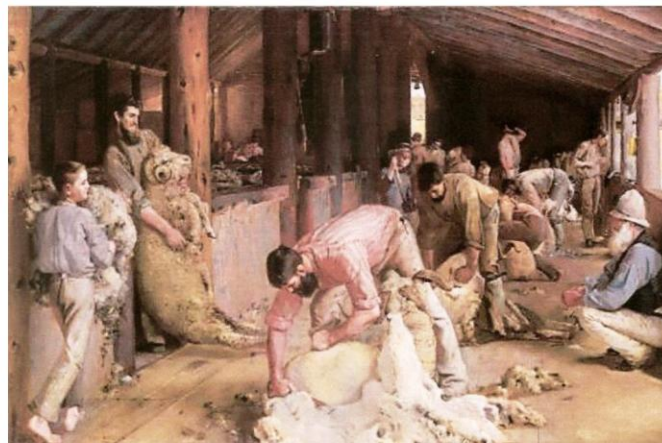
Editorial

'Inspirational, Poetic, Unknown' - all these adjectives could apply to the November lecture by Caroline Holmes on the Australian Impressionists. Everyone has a favourite style, period or genre of painting and for me it is Impressionism and Post-Impressionism. Realism is replaced by a feeling of light and immediacy and of course colour. To return to a previous editorial where we considered whether Photography was Art; it is easy to forget in this time of digital colour photography that the Impressionist period coincided with the invention of photography, which could record a realistic 'true picture' of the subject - albeit in black and white. So at the time Impressionist painting had the advantage over early photography of colour and the painters also explored the 'feeling' and almost 'abstract' nature of the subject. Even today to see the great Impressionist artists and their lesser disciples is as modern now as it was when created. And a visit to Pont-Aven or Saint-Paul de Vence and their galleries or our local artists shows examples of the continuing influence of the Movement.

So for me the chance to see and hear the history of Australian Impressionists helped to dispel the old story - "What is the difference between Yoghurt and Australia? Yoghurt has some culture!!!!" The Royal Academy Autumn Exhibition dispelled this myth still further. (See Paddy Lacey's article on Alfred Felton)

November was a classic example of virtues of membership of NADFAS Societies - opening up opportunities to enjoy the known and unknown Fine and Decorative Arts. Your committee creates a programme of Lectures, Study Days and Visits covering a wide and catholic variety of interests. And don't forget we are always interested in suggestions for topics, places and ideas for the next programme. Articles for the Newsletter and contributions to the Website are also always welcome - please contact the editor.

But just as important as what we get from NADFAS is the opportunity to get involved in Voluntary Activity - Church Recording, Young Arts and Heritage Volunteers. Blackwater is active in all these areas and our website gives details of how to get involved.



'Shearing the Rams' by Tom Roberts Nat Gallery of Victoria.

But while we are an autonomous Society we are also members of the National and Area (Essex) organisations that make up NADFAS. The Area organises three Study Days each year and co-ordinates Essex Societies both for sharing experiences and as a conduit up via the Advisory Council to NADFAS centrally. The Review magazine gives information on activity nationally that we can all participate in. Through adverts and columns the Arts Scene is available so we don't miss a particular exhibition, tour or course on a subject of interest to us. If I can be critical, perhaps the Review lacks objective articles and reviews and at times it is difficult to separate the adverts and advertorials from the journalism.

The Review, National and Society websites are the public face of NADFAS. The general public are in the main unaware of the existence and work of NADFAS so why not distribute your old Reviews and Newsletters to doctor's, vet's and dentist's waiting rooms to help raise awareness. Word of Mouth encourages people to join but if you have friends and family who can't commit to attend meetings then Affiliate Membership for £10 joins the 'club' of some 90,000 citizens.

Bill Allen

Responses to this editorial or letters of any description will be received for publication. Send to Bill Allen at wralen@dsl.pipex.com or phone 01621 891589.

BOOK REVIEW

THE PAPER GARDEN

Mrs Delany [Begins Her Life's Work] at 72

By Molly Peacock

Published by Bloomsbury Publishing PLC

ISBN 978 1 4088 2938 7



Let me introduce you to Mrs Delany, a remarkable C18th lady, who at the age of seventy two invented a new way of creating botanical pictures from paper cut-outs. Over a period of ten years she created nearly a thousand 'mosaicks' and her skill was such that even today botanists refer to her collages for their accuracy.

Molly Peacock, the author of 'The Paper Garden', is a Canadian poet who fell in love with Mrs Delany's work on seeing an exhibition of her pictures as a student in 1986 in New York. She has brought her considerable writing skills to bear to tell an engaging tale of the C18th where Mary Delany rubs shoulders with Swift, Handel, Hogarth, and even Queen Charlotte and King George III.

After a first forced unhappy marriage to an older man - who did the honourable thing and died - she went on to find deep love and companionship with Dean Patrick Delany, a Protestant Irish clergyman and friend of Jonathan Swift. She was married to him for nearly twenty five years; years of happiness and harmony in which together they created their beloved garden at Delville near Dublin and, no doubt, where Mary began her love affair with flowers.

It was four years after his death while staying with her friend Margaret Cavendish Bentinck, the Duchess Dowager of Portland, at the estate of Bulstrode, that Mary noticed a petal fall from a geranium and picking up her scissors fashioned a replica from some paper of similar colour which was among her work things. At the age of seventy two a new adventure of creation had begun.

This book has a wonderful mixture of delights: visually it is engaging with the flower creations standing out as they do against their black backgrounds; the narrative is very cleverly constructed around the images; the humanity of the story, with its central relationships between Mary and the Dean and Mary and her Duchess friend, are at times very moving and uplifting.



Many pleasures await you should you decide to make the acquaintance of Mary Delany!

Gloria Hammond

Since Gloria wrote this book review many members will know that John, her husband, died of cancer on November 21st. This article is a fitting tribute to John, because his relationship with Gloria was a most loving and dedicated one mirroring that of Patrick and Mary Delany. John was a committed member of BDFAS – serving as Treasurer for 11 years. He will be sorely missed by us all.

A reminder to members of the opportunity to submit their own review of a book they would like to draw to our attention. Please send to me at wralen@dsl.pipex.com

Visit to The Pallant Gallery, Chichester & Uppark House July 10th 2013

A very early start but a relaxed journey to a sunny bustling Chichester. The 15th Century Market Cross a splendid focal point not forgetting the Cathedral.

A short walk and we were in Pallant West and the gracious Pallant House was there in front of us. I understand Pallant refers to this particular piece of land which belongs to the Archbishop of Canterbury. The roads across this land are South Pallant, North Pallant, East and West.

We were divided into two modest groups and were guided around the permanent collection of furniture, art works etc. A magnificent display of porcelain was mounted on a wall of the staircase, each delicate piece on its personal small shelf.

Many familiar modern artists were represented in the collection, Bacon, Freud, Nash, Feddon, Lowry, Sickert. A wide range – eclectic.

The Eduardo Paolozzi exhibition was diverse. I had only known of him as a sculptor with a distinctive style but he produced a variety of art works. We saw fabric and tapestry, prints, ceramics and drawings.



It seems one of his enthusiasms was collage and some were screen printed on wallpaper and fabric, Horrockses dresses.

He was Italian, born 1924 of immigrant ice cream sellers in Leith. Many years ago on holiday in Edinburgh I saw a sculpture being mounted outside the Roman Catholic Cathedral, one by Eduardo Paolozzi.

Next time you use the tube, notice the mosaics in Tottenham Court Road Station – an artist of many disciplines. Well worth our visit to this display of such a multi talented mans craft.

Chris Shaw

After a short drive along narrow leaf-canopied lanes we arrived at Uppark to have three hours in which to enjoy the 17th century house and the panoramic views over the parkland and countryside stretching down to the Solent.



Uppark House by Keith Rose

Built in 1690 and then transformed greatly after 1747 when the estate was bought by Sir Matthew Fetherstonhaugh, the house has wonderful ceilings, fireplaces, carved woodwork and is filled with paintings, furniture etc. brought back from several grand tours of Italy, and all of the highest quality.

What is really amazing is that following a serious fire in 1989, so much has had to be restored and you would never know that the interior decoration was not original. The National Trust has taken enormous care to match colours and fabrics and craftsmen have relearned the old skills and have set new standards for the conservation of fire-damaged buildings.

Below stairs we saw the kitchen and servants' rooms and the long damp tunnels linking the house and the kitchen in the eastern wing. Above stairs we saw sumptuous rooms filled with the most fashionable items of their time and we heard of the colourful characters connected with the house over the years.

Sir Harry Fetherstonhaugh, a good friend of the Prince Regent, enjoyed good food, horse-racing and regular parties including one where the young Emma Hamilton danced naked on the dining-room table!! At the age of 71 he married his dairymaid breaking every rule of convention for the time. She stepped from below stairs to above stairs and remained in the house after his death 20 years later until her own.

The young H.G.Wells grew up here as his mother was the housekeeper in the 1880's and he remembered his days in Uppark in his novel Tono-Bungay. Sir Humphry Repton, to name but one of the leading names associated with Uppark, redecorated the house and modernised the garden 1811-14.

Whether it is the 1735-40 doll's house, the fragrant cut flower displays throughout or the gardens revitalised after 80% of the mature trees were lost in the storm of October 1889, Uppark is most memorable to visit.

Pam Aikman

VISITS JANUARY – JULY 2014

The Hidden Jewels of the Cheapside Hoard – 19 March

In 1912 workmen demolishing a building in London's Cheapside made an extraordinary discovery – a dazzling hoard of nearly 500 Elizabethan and Jacobean jewels. For the first time since this discovery the Collection will be on display at the Museum of London. Our visit will commence with a special expert talk following which there will be time for lunch and independent viewing of the Collection.

Turner Contemporary Gallery and Pugin's House – 4 June

Situated on Margate's seafront, on the same site where Turner stayed when visiting the town, the Gallery is the largest exhibition space in the South East, outside of London. Turner Contemporary's purpose is to stretch the boundaries of current visual arts practice and to bridge the gap between the historical and the contemporary.

Our visit to The Grange, Ramsgate, follows the March lecture "Pugin and The Gothic Revival". Victorian architect and designer, August Pugin, designed The Grange in the Victorian Gothic style and died there in 1852 at the age of only 40. He is buried in the impressive Pugin chantry chapel in St Augustine's Church (next to the house) also designed by him and completed by his eldest son, Edward.

Peckover House (NT) and Octavia Hill's House – 8 July

A classic Georgian merchant's house lived in by the Peckover family for 150 years. The Peckovers were staunch Quakers, living a very simple lifestyle yet at the same time running a successful private Bank and these facets of their life can be seen as you wander round the house and gardens.

Born in 1838 **Octavia Hill** came from a family of wealthy social reformers but by 1840 her father, James Hill, was bankrupt and the family left Wisbech for Finchley where her mother brought up the family alone. As a teenager she worked with slum children and became aware of their terrible living conditions. As a result she developed the idea of Social Housing where good living conditions were assured. Throughout her life she was determined to improve people's lives by giving them access to green spaces and was one of the co-founders of the National Trust.

Extended 5 day 4 night visit to The Historic Houses & Heritage of Edinburgh & the Scottish Borders departing 14 May

We will visit RHS Harlow Carr, Mellerstain House, Abbotsford House (Walter Scott), National Gallery of Scotland, Royal Yacht Britannia, Traquair House, Drumlanrig Castle and The Lowry Gallery. A full and interesting itinerary.

Alfred Felton

Local lad makes good in OZ

Good on yer Sport!

Without argument, and excluding Alistair Cook, the England cricket captain, the best known Maldonian in Melbourne, Victoria and possibly in the whole of Australia is Alfred Felton. Alfred was born in Maldon in humble surroundings on 8th November 1831, the 5th child of a family of 6 sons and 3 daughters belonging to Thomas Felton, a tanner and his wife, Hannah. It is thought that Alfred may have been an apprentice with an apothecary in England before he decided to seek his fortune 'down under' sailing in the ship, 'California', to join the gold rush in Victoria not as a miner but as a clerk and administrator.

He did well as by 1857 he was in business in Melbourne as a commission agent and dealer involved in the import of general merchandise for a burgeoning population. Later he was described as a wholesale druggist. In 1867 he bought the wholesale drug house of Youngman & Co in partnership with Frederick Grimwade. The partnership flourished and expanded into related industries of glass bottle production and the manufacture of artificial manures. Alfred also bought some large estates in the state of Victoria. He lived simply and never married. His wants were few and he gave money to good causes but also collected books and art works. In later life he occupied a suite of rooms in a local hotel where he died in January 1904 a very wealthy man. He left his considerable fortune of £378,033, the equivalent of some 40 million Australian dollars in today's money, in the form of the Felton Bequest. Half of this went towards the promotion of health and welfare of women and children and the other half to purchase works of art, both ancient and modern and antiquities for the National Gallery of Victoria. Works which were calculated to 'raise and improve public taste'.

In the century that followed Alfred's death over 15,000 items have been acquired. The money was put to good use (as with the setting up of the Bequest) the Gallery became a major player on the international art market having the purchasing power of our National Gallery and the Tate combined! Works by Durer, Tiepolo, Rembrandt, Tintoretto and Van Dyck were obtained in addition to items across all areas of the Gallery's collection; drawings, prints, sculpture, Asian art as well as classical antiquities. Works of the French Impressionists, Pissaro and Manet were obtained also by the Australian Impressionists of the Heidelberg School, featured at the November meeting including Tom Roberts - 'Shearing the rams' and Frederick McCubbin - 'The Pioneer'.

Sadly when Pam and I visited Melbourne some years ago the Gallery was closed for renovation so we were unable to see the outcome of Alfred's benevolence in person and we were most grateful for the excellent talk by Caroline Holmes that acquainted us with the paintings of the local Australian artists.

Paddy Lacey

Meet the Committee No. 16, Mrs Sylvia Frost



Having been whisked onto the Committee soon after joining in April 2011, I can't believe nearly three years have passed. It has been a very enjoyable and interesting time, making new friends and visiting new places.

I was born and brought up in Great Totham, went to school and college in Colchester and worked as a bilingual secretary in French for ten years in Essex and London. David and I were married in 1971 and lived in Shenfield and Ramsden Heath as we both worked for Ford Motor Company at that time. In 1975 we moved to Wickham Bishops and seem to have put down deep roots, although in 1984 we spent a year living in Cologne through David's work exchange with Ford. Our two children were toddlers then and it was great fun with family visiting and weekends and holidays in different parts of Germany.

I have always enjoyed visiting and reading about historic houses, beautiful gardens and architecture and so BDFAS is a wonderful extension of those interests. I have also volunteered with Grace's Church Recording group at St. Giles, Langford, which is a delightful building with origins in the 11th century and a western apse which is unique in Britain. This autumn I have joined Sheila's new rota of BDFAS members who assist at the Plume Library, Maldon, with stocktaking and cleaning books. There are some fascinating volumes there and it is very difficult to put them straight back on the shelf! The staff and trustees are very grateful for our help.

My other pursuits over the years have been oil and acrylic painting, guitar playing, contemporary dance, family history, gardening and garden design and short courses in various crafts, plus the occasional foray onto the golf course. I saw an amusing slogan recently which echoes many people's experience: "The trouble with retirement is you never get a day off"!!

Preserving the Past

As many of you are aware the books housed in The Library that carries his name were the property of Dr Thomas Plume. He was born and baptised in Maldon in 1630 and was educated at King Edwards Grammar School in Chelmsford and at Christ's College Cambridge. He was the vicar of Greenwich and later Archdeacon of Rochester. When he died in 1704, he left his collection of books to the town of Maldon. It is said that when the books arrived at the quay they were packed in barrels and when unpacked they were put on the shelves according to size and have remained in their same places to this day! Dr Plume mostly purchased second hand books and so much of the collection dates from the 16th and early 17th century with some as early as the 15th.

The present day library consists of about 7000 books. Many of these are theological but, as he was a scholar of some note, there are also books on philosophy, chemistry, medicine, physics, mathematics and chemistry. As he founded the Chair of Astronomy at Cambridge many books on this subject are included. It was a lending library for scholars right up to 1930 and in that time some books went missing and replacements have been sought by the Friends. However, researchers and scholars are still welcome to research many of the books.

The early books of this era consisted of paper sections that purchasers would have bound together according to their needs and taste. Virtually all books were bound in leather and some in velum. Over the years they dry out and leather binding needs to be dressed in order to preserve them. About three years ago, as a member of BDFAS, I was one of a group who volunteered to dress the leather volumes housed in the Library. Unfortunately there were some problems that I believe involved training and insurance and so we were unable to continue as a group. However I was accepted as an individual volunteer and became a "Friend"

At the Plume use is made of a dressing which is a mixture of beeswax, lanolin and neat's-foot and this has to be applied sparingly to the binding with a lint free cloth taking care not to get it on the endpapers or in the pages. The dressing is produced locally at Layer Marney and is used by many of the major libraries. So far I have managed to dress the volumes on one side of the library and have started on the opposite side. The question remains as to whether I will complete the task before age and the steps up to the library get the better of me!

Charles Middleton

(Ed – Sheila Bates adds the following encouraging note - " Charles Middleton did sterling work at the Plume, but keeping the books there in good condition is an on-going task. Four of us from BDFAS have taken up that challenge and have committed ourselves to attending every week. We work in teams of two as space is limited. I speak for us all in saying we are enjoying the work and look forward to further training in conservation in the future. It is a privilege to handle the ancient volumes and protect their future.")

Chairman's Column

Winter 2014

Happy New Year everyone.

By the time you read this report, we will have had our December Christmas lecture, and our visit to Hintlesham Hall for our Christmas lunch; this event was oversubscribed and I know that some of you were unable to get tickets. We will have to try to accommodate more members if we have a similar response next December.

I am now four months into the job as I write this report, and becoming Chairman was quite daunting at first; as I was kept busy during the summer break with a series of "staffing" problems. Our long serving Membership Secretary retired in July, and the Membership renewals were due to go out in August. Thankfully Chris Adams was really methodical in passing the job over to Jennifer Allen, and considering that we were all going on holiday breaks at different times, the renewals went ahead very seamlessly. Thank you to Chris and Jennifer for this. I know you both put in a lot of hard work.

We were also short of people to help with the putting out and putting away the chairs at lectures and I am glad to say that this has been resolved for the present, but Alec Fraser is always happy to hear from anyone who would be willing to be placed on a list to be called upon as and when needed in an emergency. Mary Reeve has taken over the organisation of our refreshments, and Velda and Thelma also stepped in to help. They all did this at very short notice, and I would like to thank them for their support and enthusiasm at a very difficult time.

We were sorry to learn of John Hammond's untimely death. John's hard work was so appreciated by us all. Mary Ranson has taken over the Treasurer's job, and is working very hard at the moment, as there is a lot to learn. Thank you very much Mary. Our other two new committee members Ann and Stephanie are settling in to their new jobs. I have handed over Young Arts to Sheila Bates, who will be assisted by Stephanie Jones, and Ann Bradnam is "shadowing" Pamela Turnbull, our current Programme Secretary. What could easily have been a series of ongoing difficulties has come together very well, and we now look forward to 2014 with a good strong team in place.

Please do speak to any of the Committee members if you feel that you could contribute to the running of your Society. You may not have a lot of time, but a small amount of your help will be a great help to us.

Volunteering is another way you can help to preserve your heritage. We need Church Recorders urgently! We have two churches to finish recording and not enough helpers, and we are still working at the Essex Record Office and at the Plume Library. Volunteering is fun and you only have to give as much time as you feel able to give. It's an excellent way to get to know people a little better and to get the satisfaction of being part of a team.

Sheila Bates and I went to the NADFAS "Rising to the Challenge" event at Kensington Town Hall on 12th

November 2013 and we really enjoyed the day. We saw examples of all kinds of work volunteers were doing to help preserve the past; we talked to experts in book preservation, costumes and textiles; we attended a lecture given by an art gallery that told us about a project they had recently undertaken to get young people to come to their gallery for the day to enable them to get involved and to find out about some of the jobs available for them in museums and galleries. This was aimed specifically at pupils who wouldn't usually go into an art gallery.

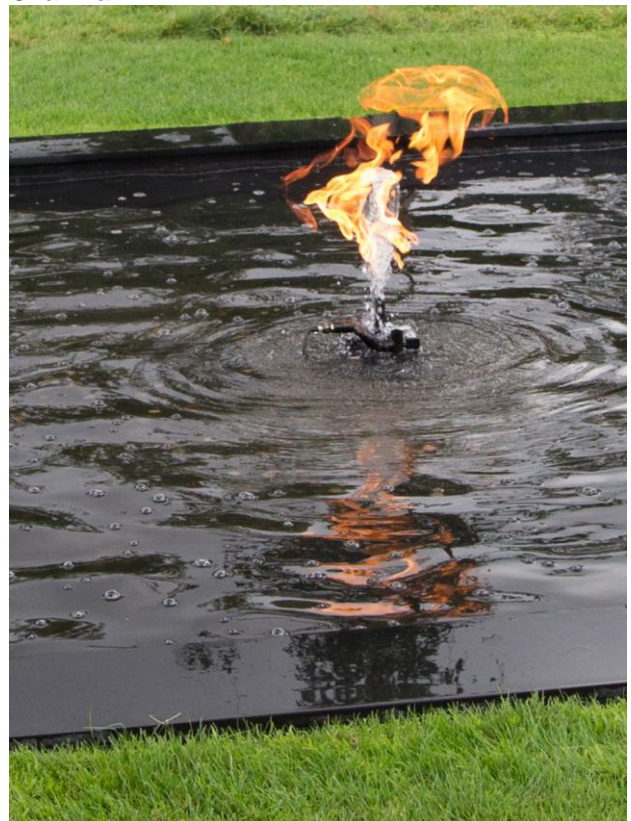
At the end of the day Sheila and I did a "rush job" to help finish a Young Arts project which had been running during the day. The whole day was very exciting and stimulating, and the lunch was good too! I'm sure a full report will be in the Summer Newsletter.

Back at Blackwater DFAS, we still maintain a membership of around 200 with some new members and others about to join, and we now look forward to cheering up the winter months with some good visits, lectures and a study day.

During our cheese and wine event at the June lecture, we will again be asking for members to bring "show and tell" art and craft items (which are their own work) for our mutual enjoyment. I won't allow you to be shy because I know how talented you all are! The more variation in the items the better, so get busy during the dark winter evening and be prepared to reveal the results in June.

Happy New Year to everyone! Let's hope that the winter doesn't go on for too long.

My very best wishes to you all.... Sue Roache
Chairman.



Flame Fountain Houghton Hall

Music, Art, Wine & Food - JOIN THE BDFAS 'GRAND TOUR' to Bologna in 2014. 6 days from £799 Departing 27th October 2014. Details on the Website or contact Rosemary Woods 01621 891023

Church Crawl 12th August 2013



On a sunny morning my brother and I set out on the Annual Essex Area Church Crawl. We made our way to Great Waltham where we were greeted by Caroline Brown, Priest-in-charge. Graham Brereton, who has taken over responsibility for Church Recording in Essex, gave us a very informative talk on St Mary and St Lawrence's Church. He pointed out that the aisle which measures 32 feet wide and is wider than any other medieval church in Essex, including Chelmsford Cathedral. The Church was almost certainly built in the latter part of the reign of Henry I. There is an important Jacobean monument to Sir Anthony Everard and his wife, who are reclining in very uncomfortable positions under an elaborately carved canopy.

We then made our way to the Black Chapel in North End. It is enchanting and very well cared for. The name is thought to originate from a local family called Bleeche.

Ann Howard spoke to us from a double decker pulpit and pointed out the tiny font, an 18th C four stop barrel organ and the arms of Queen Anne dated 1714.

After an excellent lunch at the Rose and Crown, we made our way to St Martin's in Little Waltham. Ann Howard told us that the nave is Norman and the chancel was rebuilt in the 14thC. The beautiful East Window has village scenes and there is a contemporary glass tower screen. There is a magnificent church chest which was hollowed from a sycamore 700 years ago.

The day ended with a cup of tea in the modern barn behind the Church.

Marjorie Ferguson

Houghton Revisited

On August 16th 2013 a group from the Blackwater DFAS had the great pleasure of visiting Houghton Hall near Kings Lynn where over 70 paintings sold from Robert Walpole's private art collection 234 years ago had been brought back from Russia and the United States to be hung again in the house built to display them.

Sir Robert Walpole became an MP in 1701, and despite spending time in the Tower of London for corruption, rose rapidly to become Paymaster General, Chancellor and finally the Leader of the Cabinet. He held this post longer than anyone before or since and is generally regarded as Britain's first Prime Minister. He amassed a huge fortune during this period through "commissions" and investment in the South Sea Company before the bubble burst.

With his fortune Walpole built up one of the finest private art collections in Europe. He was a highly informed and discerning collector and although he did use agents and especially his three sons to track down works from all over Europe the choices were very much his own. It was an eclectic collection mainly from the 16th and 17th centuries.

Walpole was a Norfolk man who never lost his local accent and when, in the 1720s, he wanted a grand house for his lavish political entertaining and to display his wonderful paintings, the old family home was demolished and the present Palladian hall built. William Kent was commissioned to design the interior around the paintings, detailing exactly where each should be hung. The house was built around the paintings,

When Walpole died in 1745 debts were building up and what money remained was quickly squandered by

his gambling grandson, George. The collection was put up for sale. There was intense lobbying in Parliament by John Wilkes to purchase the paintings for the country but to no avail. At this time Catherine the Great of Russia was expanding her Hermitage Museum and in 1779, with the help of James Christie, then an unknown auctioneer, she bought over 200 of the paintings. Most have remained at the Hermitage but two of the more valuable ones, a Velazquez and a Van Dyk were sold to America during the Stalin regime.

Through marriage the estate passed into the Cholmondeley family who had no use for the house and so it was mothballed until the 1950s when the grandmother of the present owner began the restoration to its former glory.

The discovery of the detailed hanging plans in a drawer at the Hermitage gave the curator of this exhibition the ambitious idea of bringing back some of the paintings to Houghton Hall, the house built for them. Seventy five pictures were returned to be hung in their original positions and many in their original frames.

There were works by Murillo, Frans Hals, Teniers, Van Dyk and Poussin. A portrait of Grinley Gibbins is surrounded by his own carving. One whole room has been devoted to Walpole's favourite artist Carlo Maratta. As one would expect many painting have grand classical and religious themes but there are some surprisingly modest subjects. I particularly liked the Rembrandt Portrait of an Elderly Lady and the Head of a Franciscan Monk by Rubens.

Apart from the pictures there was plenty to admire. The marble Stone Hall is magnificent. Huge busts of Roman emperors range round the room. The largest is of Walpole as a Roman senator sporting the Garter Star on his tunic! As a result of the house being closed the colours of the furnishings and wonderful tapestries have retained their vibrant colours.

A beautiful garden has been created within the old walled kitchen garden and many of us spent a long time puzzling how the flame stayed at the top of the water fountain.

One art critic has described this exhibition as a once in a lifetime experience. I agree with him and thank the visits team for enabling us to be part of it.

Mary Ranson

STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS

Programme of Lectures for 2014

**Thursday
2 January** **A History of Christmas Cards,
Valentines and Postcards**
Andrew Davies MA (Hons)

**Thursday
6 February** **Painter of Sunlight:
Joaquin Sorolla**
Gail Turner MA (Hons) (Oxon)
MA (Courtauld) EARAC Dip
Colchester School of Art

**STUDY DAY
Monday
24 February** **Pomp and Circumstance:
Royal Ceremonies from
Coronations to Jubilees**
Chloë Cockerill MBE MA

**Thursday
6 March** **Pugin and The Gothic Revival**
Nicola Smith BA PhD MSocSc

**Thursday
3 April** **Romancing the Stone:
An Introduction to Gemstones**
Joanna Hardy FGA DGA FRSA

**Thursday
8 May** **Tchaikovsky, Chekhov and
Levitan**
Rosamund Bartlett BA (Hons)

**Thursday
5 June** **Paris : The City of 365
Sundays**
Thirza Vallois BA MA

**All members and guests are invited to a Cheese and Wine Party
after the lecture and members' Art and Craft exhibition**

**Thursday
3 July** **Your Country Needs You' :
Art and Design of WW1**
James Taylor MA FRSA

This is your Newsletter

*and the committee is very appreciative of the articles
and photographs members have contributed. Please
keep them coming. The next deadline is the 1st May*

*Photographs by courtesy Bill Allen, Alec Fraser
Assembled and Printed by Chris Cooper - Beaver Press, Witham*

Christmas Lunch at Hintlesham Hall Hotel on Tuesday 3rd December 2013

We began our day at St Bartholomew's Church where Richard our driver was waiting with a warm coach to take us to Hintlesham in Suffolk for our festive lunch. The day was overcast but dry and unlike 2012, when we left in thick snow, it was not bitterly cold. There was plenty of lively conversation as we made our way to our destination.

On our arrival we made our way up to the main entrance where two beautifully decorated festive trees adorned each side of the doorway. Once inside further decorated trees and other ornaments lined the passage way to the cloakrooms and to the main lounge and garden room where Bucks Fizz and canapés awaited us. Within minutes both rooms were buzzing with conversation as we warmed ourselves by the real fires blazing in the huge marble fireplaces.

Then the call to lunch in the beautifully decorated dining room where we were seated at tables of eight. There then followed a long leisurely lunch where we had pleasant conversations with the other people seated on our table. We wore our festive hats, pulled our crackers and read out the terrible jokes inside them to the other members of our table.

At the end of the meal our Chairman, Sue Roache, thanked the staff at Hintlesham and Rosemary Woods for all the hard work involved in organising such a successful event.

We then finished the afternoon with coffee and petite fours back in the lounge or garden room where there was more opportunity for conversation while we watched the daylight turn to twilight before it was time for the journey home but this time it was a much quieter and replete group of travellers who arrived safely back at Wickham Bishops, in what seemed a remarkably quick time, at the end of a memorable day.

Peter and Sandra Howell