



50 years of
**THE ARTS
SOCIETY**

WOKING DFAS using its new brand name “**THE ARTS SOCIETY WOKING**” prepared to party to celebrate the Golden anniversary of **THE ARTS SOCIETY (NADFAS)**

The event organiser, Rosie Whicher, headed up a team which included the Chairman Malcolm Lee and Roger Bower. The celebration was a great success due to their meticulous organisation.

Members of the Committee as well as other members of the society helped on the day giving the occasion the friendly atmosphere for which our society is well known.



PATRICIA FAY

The Founder of NADFAS

“In **1965** The Chiltern Antiques Group was founded by Patricia Fay and a pioneering group of young women eager to be educated about the arts. In **1968**, eleven such Societies came together to form **the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS)**.

In the **1970s** NADFAS became a registered charity and underwent a period of rapid expansion with the creation of many new Societies across the UK, and the launch of key initiatives such as Church Recording, Young Arts and Heritage Volunteering.

For her inspiration and vision **Patricia Fay received an OBE in 1975**. The Patricia Fay Memorial Fund was established in 1980 following her death a year earlier, aged 46.” (From the NADFAS website)

Patricia had founded a group of societies based on a sustainable model. She also recognised that whilst we satisfy our curiosity about the arts **we should have fun**.



A Golden Celebration

of The Arts
Society - Woking

Friday, April 6th, 2018

at The International School,
Old Woking Road, Woking GU22 8HY

FEATURING

A talk on British
Gold by the
international expert

IAN PICKFORD
from the Antiques
Roadshow

Bring your gold or silver gilt for
Ian to evaluate

11.00 Coffee and
biscuits

11.30 The talk

12.30 Bubbly and
delicious finger food

*With Ron Dawes on
the piano*

Ticket price, for members and their friends, £15

For tickets, call 01483 233861

e-mail memdfas@gmail.com



ADVERTISEMENT

This advert was much admired by many who said that it was a work of art in itself and was very appropriate for the occasion.

GUESTS OF HONOUR

JANET GILL

President, Past Chairman and
Group Leader of the Church Recorders of
The Arts Society Woking



JUNE ROBINSON

National Chairman
The Arts Society



CAROLINE COLEMAN

Chairman
The Arts Society West Surrey Area



“PAST CHAIRMAN” UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

(Back row left to right) Romy Read, Malcolm Lee (Woking Chairman), Ros Lawson, June Robinson (National Chairman), Chris Symington, Caroline Coleman (West Surrey Area Chairman)



(Front Row left to right) Roddy Vernon, Jenny Capito, Patsy Anders, Ann Pound, Janet Gill (Woking President)

Katie Butcher,
Our Founding Chairman, who
lived to attend and enjoy our
25th Anniversary



WOKING DFAS **TIMELINE**

- 1989 * Split away from **Shalford DFAS**
- * **Woking DFAS** was founded
- * Met at Woodham Village Hall
- 1990 * Moved to Goldwater Lodge
- 1992 * Society became too large
- * **Mayford DFAS** was formed and
- Both societies met at Goldwater Lodge
- 1996 * Woking Council told us to move.
- Offered us The Ambassadors Cinema in Woking (for the first time... this was rejected.)
- * **Mayford DFAS** relocated to the Ambassadors.
- 1996 * Moved to the Bisley Pavilion
- * Members were given the option of which society to be a member of.
- 2012 * **Woking DFAS** applied for and was **granted charitable status**
- 2016 * The Bisley Pavilion stopped taking Events
- * We Moved to The Lord Roberts Centre (also at Bisley)
- 2017 * Vote on whether to "Stay at the LRC" or "Move to the Ambassadors Cinema" ...the former won the vote.
- 2017 * **NADFAS** adopted "**The Arts Society**" as its new brand name, retaining **NADFAS** as its financial & legal name
- 2017 * **Woking DFAS** adopted "**The Arts Society**" as its new brand name, retaining **Woking DFAS** as its financial & legal name



ROGER WEDGE

Projectionist

Roger, our projectionist, seen here having a short break in the knowledge that his preparatory work carried out the previous evening and also before the meeting was all that he could do and so here he was awaiting the start of the lecture. In his years of working with us he has had to resolve the many issues that arose....equipment malfunction, Lecturers problems etc.

When all our projection equipment was “removed” from Bisley Pavilion during a tussle between the landlord, the NRA, and the Tenant, Sean Somebody, Roger played a part in its recovery.

Roger first started working for Woking DFAS as Projectionist when Patsy Anders was Chairman.(Patsy was a founding member and the second Chairman of Woking DFAS. She tells a funny story of how Katie Butcher would not take “no” for an answer.

MALCOLM READ

Malcolm, who organises the TAS Woking visits, was the first person you saw when you arrived as he was organising the car parking and making sure everyone knew where to go. An expert multitasker... at lunchtime he changed into a white shirt and black tie to perform the role of Barman.



It is the members' running everything that makes The Arts Society so special. We are a members society run by an estimated 4,000 members. Without all those who volunteer to help out at meetings, who sit on the society and area committees and who work as Trustees... we could not exist.

Quickly to move to the cor blimey... The reclining cow on the back wall must have been painted by one of those artists who paint what they feel rather than what they see. Nothing wrong with that!

(Romy, Malcolm's wife and a Past Chairman, managed to escape a focused shot from our cameras ...many thanks to her for the multitude of delicious Committee lunches she has hosted)



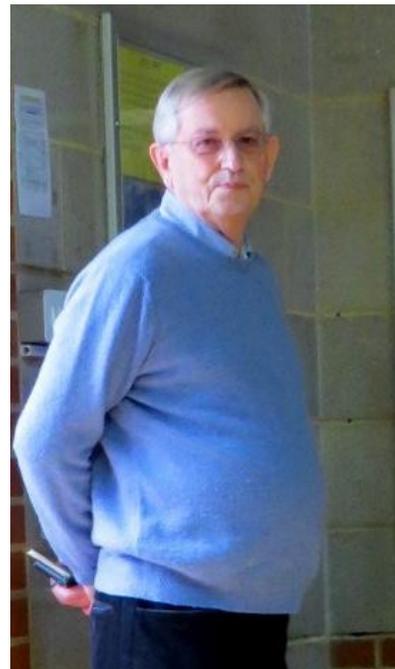
ANN ALEXANDER

Woking Meeting Volunteer



On entering the building attendees were given a great welcome by Ann who was in charge of registration.

Ann was in cracking form with just over a week to go before her marriage to **BRIAN SHEPPARD** who also helps out as a meeting volunteer.





ROS LAWSON
Past Chairman

Moving into the hall the lovely, welcoming “meet and greet” ambience was continued by Past Chairman, Ros Lawson who was in charge of the coffee tables.

When we moved to the Lord Roberts Centre we found we no longer had a gruff “Dave” to dispense the coffee and biscuits. Ros volunteered to take on the task and now has a team of helpers who join in what has become part of “the Woking DFAS experience.”

MARY PHILLIPS



As the coffee table was inundated, Mary gave a hand. As you can see it was a jolly business.

This picture of Mary and the one of Ros on the previous page show that they emphasise with **Patricia Fay's dictum to remember to have some fun** whilst satisfying their curiosity about the arts.

To the right of the photo can be seen some of the painting exhibits of the Brookwood Art Group.



CHRIS SYMINGTON

Past Chairman of Woking
West Surrey Area Committee member
(Strategy & Publicity)

Chris's main role on the Area committee is to be aware of what strategic plans are being made by the Trustees, to understand what the eighteen West Surrey Areas Societies views are on important issues and to ensure, through the Area Chairman, that there is an appropriate two way feedback involving both the Societies and the Trustees.

The role has become necessary at this time of immense change within TAS.

THE PARTY WAS IN FULL SWING



LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK









We gave Brookwood Art Group, space to show some of their members' paintings.

"The Group aim to create a friendly, free and easy atmosphere in which members of all abilities and levels of experience can work in their chosen medium, and benefit from the company of those with similar interests. There is plenty of opportunity for discussion and exchange of ideas. Members work on their own projects in a variety of media from water colour to oil."

Their lovely paintings along with the colourful bunting enhanced our mood of celebration.



RON DAWES

Pianist

Many thanks go to Ron Dawes who gave of his time freely on account of his friendship with our organiser Rosie Whicher.

He had to cope with a crescendo of happy chatter as the room filled up.

Also...see more paintings from the Brookwood Art Group.



FRANCOISE SUTTON

(FANCHON)

Woking Treasurer

Fanchon is the one in lime green...not that you would have thought otherwise! On her right is Chris (husband) and on her left Graham Lytton.

Both Fanchon and Chris are new to the Committee.

THE ARTS SOCIETY- WEST SURREY AREA

(Right) Caroline Coleman Area Chairman

(Left) Geraldine Corbitt (ACE)

The acronym “ACE” stands for Area Co-ordinator of Education.

Perhaps not everyone knows that West Surrey Area is the only TAS area to have an annual “Area Programme Day”. This is invaluable as each person responsible for lectures, visits and SID’s in our 18 societies gives a two minute presentation on the best and worst from the last year.

They will understand how the presenting lecturers will feel a few weeks later at the Annual Programme Day run by HQ and how difficult to is to get at the essence in just two minutes.





ROGER BOWER

Publicity

I wonder if Roger is asking Pianist, Ron, if he can play the one that goes....!?!

The Publicity role is becoming ever more demanding with today's greater need to communicate with members and potential members.

(Below) **BARBARA BRITTEN**
And **BRIAN SHEPPARD**



(Right) **JILL**
BROADLEY





CHRIS SUTTON

Woking Programme Secy.

Chatted to

CAROLINE SYMINGTON

Past Woking Programme Secy.

They were probably agreeing that lecture selection is the most important committee task. Get it right and the members keep turning up at the meetings. Get it wrong!!?!!

The lecture accreditation scheme and the very high quality of the 324 Lecturers and their 900 lectures is simply world class. This is what we are best at and no-one does it better. How often have you heard it said “that was the best lecture I have ever heard?”

Returning to the photo... In the left background... there was Graham Lytton again.



**GATHERING FOR THE
LECTURE**



ROSIE WHICHER
Woking Membership Secy.
and
The Organiser of this
celebration

Chairman, Malcolm Lee, presented Rosie with a bunch of flowers to thank her for the huge effort she put in to ensure that Woking's Celebration of the Golden Anniversary of NADFAS would be, as it was, a huge success.

Really well done, Rosie.



JUNE ROBINSON

National Chairman of THE ARTS SOCIETY

Being Chairman Trustee of the Arts Society is almost a full time job from which June will retire at the AGM in May having served three years in the post.

June is well used to researching individual societies and having looked all over the Woking website she told us that she had been highly impressed by two things, Church Recording and Heritage Volunteering:

CHURCH RECORDING

June said that it was exceptional that Woking was on their 8th Church recording bearing in mind that recordings take about three years to complete. Our President JANET GILL has been/is in charge of four recordings.

When asked to comment, Janet said that tribute should be paid to Past Chairman **PATSY ANDERS** (Right) who has worked on every record.



HERITAGE VOLUNTEERING

BARBARA NEW

Heritage Volunteer



Barbara, a founder member of Woking DFAS, worked as a Heritage Volunteer at Clandon Park for decades... so you can imagine how heartbroken she was after the calamitous fire three years ago on the 29th of April 2015. But she will have been greatly encouraged by the restoration plan which is the largest ever tackled by the National Trust. (Early concept below)



(Barbara's Husband, Max, who escaped our cameras, has been a long term Heritage Volunteer at Brooklands)

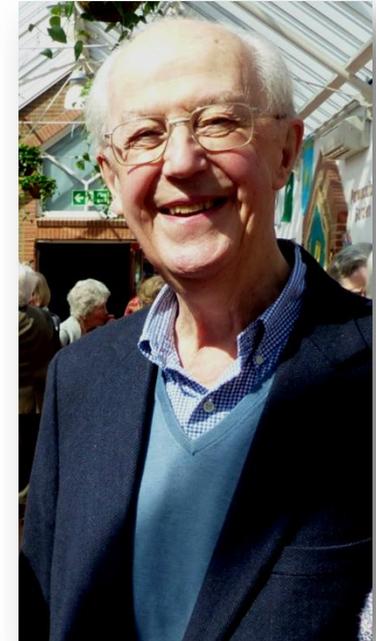
LESLEY HAMMERSLEY

HERITAGE VOUNTEERING



As June had noted from the Woking website, Lesley has done a great job in setting up the Heritage Volunteering. She has registered TAS Woking with the Lightbox, Painshill, Brooklands and Watts Gallery.

However, she needs more volunteers. So, please have a look at the website and consider volunteering. It can be a lot of fun.



Phillip Hammersley



IAN PICKFORD

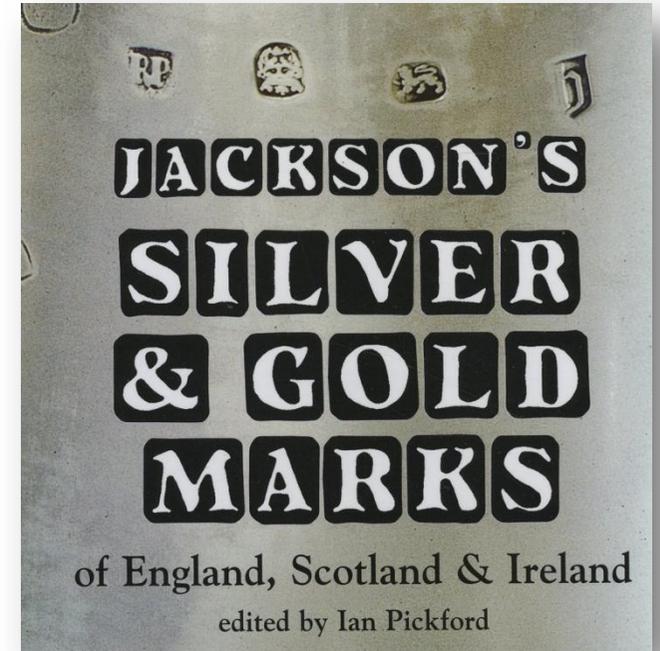
Ian Pickford's name is synonymous with expertise in silver and gold marks, with the Antiques Roadshow, with having an encyclopaedic knowledge of the history of silver and gold and with being a NADFAS lecturer.

It was entirely appropriate that Rosie Whicher asked Ian to give the lecture to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of NADFAS.

Ian joined the Antiques Roadshow in 1985.

His writings include the now-standard reference book on silver flatware and he is the Editor of *Jackson's Silver and Gold Marks*. In 1981, he was made a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths and a Freeman of the City of London.

It was a fascinating lecture in which we saw and learned not only of famous historical objects of gold and silver but also a lot about these noble metals i.e. A gold sovereign when beaten down to the thinnest gold leaf would cover a football pitch.



TWO OF THE OBJECT D'ART SHOWN BY IAN





The Golden Anniversary celebration has been a great success and Malcolm can reflect on a job done well. Here he is thanking June for coming and wishing her a safe journey home.

Rosie is taking a closer look at something on the floor!! We saw her here, we saw her there, we saw her everywhere...Once again, well done Rosie.

This journal was created by Past Chairman
CHRIS SYMINGTON

Many thanks to
CHRIS GREENING
for his photos (Chris is the TAS Woking
photographer for the Church Recorders)