



Fine Lines



NEWSLETTER - VOLUME 30
JANUARY, 2013
CHESTER DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY
www.chesterdfas.org.uk

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the first electronic mailing of Fine Lines.

January 2013 offers opportunities to book a trip to Istanbul this autumn; a summer day trip to Yorkshire, enjoying fresh air and an art gallery; and a relaxing members only lunch and speaker event in April, whilst enjoying springtime at Vale Royal!

With so much to look forward to, in addition to our excellent monthly lecture programme, this promises to be an exciting year.

Our AGM will return to being held prior to the afternoon lecture in March. It will be open to all members of the Society and details of this and other AGM matters will be sent to you either by email, Royal Mail, or can be viewed on the website.

So, a Happy New Year to you all and the best of luck with our 'Treasurer's Raffle'.

Linda Hill.



To win a year s membership of Chester DFAS

We are offering all our members the opportunity to win their 2013-14 memberships as a raffle prize.

Tickets will be on sale for £1 at the January and February lectures

Proceeds to our Society funds.

(Separate from our normal Young Arts raffle).

The lucky winner will be announced after the AGM in March.

Editor Janet Palmer FineLinesEditor@chesterdfas.org.uk

Discovering the Art of London Streets

On 6th November, 2012 Peter Lawrence, with his wide knowledge of London (ex. Royal Protection officer based at the London Bridge Police Station) combined his easy manner and humour to take his audience on a rollercoaster tour of the art and architecture of London. What we thought to be well known facts, (do you know what Cenotaph actually means?) to the poignant group of refugee



children at Liverpool Street Station, past the bronze relief of Battle of Britain pilots scrambling out of a wall and on to the Banksey double yellow road lines morphing in to a big yellow daisy climbing a wall, not to mention the Duke of Wellington's nose on Admiralty Arch, these lectures were a joy.



Among many things I didn't know was that Norman

Foster's design of the glass-faced County Hall (likened by P.L. to a motorcycle helmet) was meant to suggest the transparency of local government!!

Altogether a gem of a Study Day !

Report from Margaret Robinson

The Queen's Diamonds at Buckingham Palace



On 2nd October 2012 forty six DFAS members made their independent ways to Buckingham Palace to view the Queen's Diamonds. The Queen gave permission for her personal and state jewel collection to be displayed as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Our tour commenced at 11.45 a.m. The Palace was already extremely busy but the well-oiled machine of "the Firm" meant we were guided through with a minimum of delay. Everyone received an audio guide, which the least technical of our members (of a certain age) could operate. We glided through the magnificent staterooms towards the darkened and hushed atmosphere of the Diamond Exhibition.

Each piece or collection was displayed in clear, beautifully lit cases. The first piece being Queen Victoria's tiny crown which she wore in many iconic portraits. The tiaras, necklaces, bracelets, brooches and swords were simply breathtaking, and took one on a journey through history as the pieces have been handed down through the generations. The size of the diamonds and their magnificent settings were truly spectacular. Then came the most famous of all, the Cullinan diamonds. The original huge stone had been cut and made into nine major pieces, seven of which were on display. Two stones are set in the coronation regalia, the largest in the crown; the other stones have been made into earrings, necklace and a ring. After the tour there was the opportunity to lunch on the Terrace overlooking the Palace Gardens and also to purchase mementos of this very special occasion (Exhibition pieces not available for sale!). The opportunity to view this unique collection was very much appreciated. Thank you to Chairman Linda Hill for arranging purchase of the tickets.

Report from Daphne Gulliver

Young Arts 'Big Draw' Event

For the second year in succession, Chester DFAS has supported the Big Draw campaign with The Grosvenor Museum aiming to involve children visiting the museum with their families. This year, at the museum's suggestion, the afternoon was based on a temporary exhibition of work by the artist Robin Ironside, once described as one of the most idiosyncratic artists of 20th century Britain.

Some of the hidden images in his detailed drawings, birds, bats, etc. were reproduced by the museum, laminated and strung together to create a job and the children were invited to see how many they could find.

Both children and parents had great fun trying to find a hidden hand or bird's nest. They then used their imaginations and a wealth of art materials to produce their own-collaged drawings with hidden images. This was the Chester DFAS contribution to the Jubilee Hour as Cathy Rounthwaite, our



Young Arts Representative, ran the free event supported by Fran Bray from the Grosvenor Museum.



This autumn we have also supported a project at Winsford Academy to create a mural designed by the students on the wall of the old school building.

The Verdin and Woodford Lodge Schools of Winsford were merged to create the new Academy two years ago, and as new building work goes on, the intention is to produce a mural that represents

goodbye to the old school and hello to the new.

Many thanks to our members who support these events each month with their contributions to the raffle.

Committee Openings

If you feel you have transferable skills, enjoy working as a team player and have had time to assimilate the mood and ethos of this DFAS Society, then do put yourself forward to join the Committee. [Forms will be coming out with the AGM paperwork]

You will then have the opportunity to shadow existing committee members so that we can suggest the right fit for you and maximise your potential within our Society.

Committee Members:-

Chairman Linda Hill

Hon. Treasurer Lynne Emerson

Membership Secretary Margaret Osborne (Gaye Brewster shadowing)

Programme Secretary - Grace Johnston

Heritage Volunteers Secretary Kath Bowen

Young Arts Secretary Cathy Rounthwaite

Hon. Secretary Trish Barnett

Study Days Secretary Sylvia Price

Visits Secretary - Sheila Pemberton

Dates for your Diary

Please note that refunds are not available unless a replacement can be found

Day of Special Interest Tuesday, 26th February 2013

I don't know much about Art, but ...
An introduction to Modern Art.i

Led by Michael Howard
at The Grosvenor Museum.

The cost for the day will be **£25.50** to include
coffee and a light lunch.

Doors open at 10.00 a.m.
for a 10.30 a.m. start.

The day will finish at about 3.00 p.m.

Tickets available from **the Study Day Secretary**
(contact details on Programme Card, via the
website or at Lectures.)

This promises to be an excellent day.

SPRING LUNCHEON

with a talk by Nadfas Speaker,

Frances Hughes on

iTheatrical Personalities of the 20th Centuryi

on Tuesday, 30th April, 2013

at Vale Royal Golf Club, Whitegate ñ the historic
site of Vale Royal Abbey

(30 minutes from Chester - just off the A556)

Tickets will be on sale at lectures or by

contacting the Programme Secretary

(contact details on your Programme Card
or via the website)

Price £19.75 to include welcome drink and two
course meal.

Please note this is a member's only event

Advance notice of a Chester DFAS visit to The Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield & The Yorkshire Sculpture Park

on Tuesday, 25 June, 2013

We will leave the main car park at Chester Zoo at
7.45 a.m. returning to the Zoo at approx 6.30 p.m.

The visit will include:

Coffee on arrival at The Hepworth Gallery
followed by a tour led by a member
of the gallery team;

A guided tour of the landscape at
The Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Free time to visit the galleries and park Ö/

**/Ö. A cup of tea prior to our departure for
Chester at 4.30pm**

Coach price and gratuities inc.

We will have a break for lunch at

The Hepworth Gallery and, if you would like to
take your lunch in The Hepworth Restaurant,
could you please book it with **Sheila Pemberton**
when you buy your ticket, alternatively you may
prefer to bring your own lunch.

Tickets, priced £25.50 will be sold at the lecture
on 19th March 2013 or by post
(sae please) from 18th March.

For further details contact **the Visits Secretary** via
the website or by phone ñ telephone numbers
of the Committee are on the back of your
programme.

Treasures of Istanbul

Thursday 17th ñ Tuesday 22nd October 2013 Our
Society trip this autumn is to the exciting city of
Istanbul.

Flying direct
from

Manchester

Participants
will enjoy four
full days of
cultural
activities.

The price of the
trip is based on
a minimum of

25 paying participants and includes:

**Bed and Breakfast accommodation at the
four* Armada Hotel inc. two dinners in the
hotel restaurant and two dinners in local
restaurants. Local specialist guides for all
visits. All necessary coach transfers in and
around Istanbul.**

**All entrance and booking fees as per the
itinerary.**

Private boat cruise on the Bosphorus.

Turkish Tourist Visa.

Porterage and gratuities.

**Price £1,325 per person sharing a
twin/double room. £295 single supplement.**

**Places are limited but booking is required by
1st February 2013.**

Please contact the Chairman either by phone or
via the website for further information.

**Brochures will be available at the
January lecture**

