

Committee Report 2010

This year saw the Tenth Anniversary of the start of WDFAS and unfortunately the first lecture of 2010, which was to be given by the same lecturer, who gave the first lecture, had to be cancelled because of snow. The social gathering had to be postponed a month and was a great success. We would like to thank all those involved in the organization of the event.

The Committee is pleased to report that the Society has had another successful and enjoyable year. Members will see from the Accounts that, even after expenditure on new digital equipment, we still have a satisfactory level of reserves and the Committee believes that there are sufficient funds to replace any of our equipment which may need to be replaced either from wearing out or by being superseded by newer technology. However the day to day running expenses of the Society have increased and in order to cover these the Committee has recommended that the annual subscription should be increased to £40.00, the first increase for six years.

More and more lecturers have converted to digital presentations and we are glad to be able to offer them use of our new projector. The Society is very fortunate to have members under the leadership of Stephen Gillam-Smith, who devote a great deal of their time and experience to setting up, operating and maintaining all our audio visual equipment. We are most grateful to them.

Lectures in the past year have covered a wide range of subjects and have been well attended. We have welcomed 15 new members and have 36 on the waiting list. This means that the time spent on the waiting list is between 2 and 3 years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who fill in (anonymously) assessments of the speakers and also make suggestions for future subjects. We are very grateful to Marjorie Tarring, our Programme Secretary, for ensuring that the lecturers arrive safely on time and unflustered. We are also grateful to Jo Collinson-Jones and the car-parking attendants for the smooth running of car-parking, the Hall and meetings.

This year we have visited Wilton House & Highclere Castle, Malta and Gozo, Knebworth House and Blenheim. We have a visit to Northumberland and Durham in September 2010 with 26 participants. It is proposed that we visit Kracow from 19th to 24th September 2011 and details of this visit will be circulated separately. All our extended visits are arranged through Heritage Travel.

Clare Mitchelmore has been on the Committee for three years firstly as Young Arts Representative and then as Visits Organizer and is now retiring. We would like to thank Clare for all the hard work and time she has put in organizing all the wonderful trips for us.

WDFAS Volunteers Activities are co-ordinated by Carla Bounds and we are grateful to her for the time and effort, which she puts in so willingly. We are continuing for 2010 with a grant of £250 to Send Family Link, a charity which supports families visiting women in custody at Send Prison. This grant will fund a Young Arts project for the children of prisoners, who will share the activity with their parent in order for them to enjoy extended time together. Much interest is being shown by West Surrey Area and NADFAS House in this project.

Heritage Volunteers

Unfortunately the Museum has imposed a moratorium on volunteer work. The offers of help from members are very much appreciated and hopefully they will still be available when it is the time to continue.

Carla Bounds has served on the Committee since 2003 firstly as Secretary and latterly being responsible for our Charitable Activities and we would like to thank her for all she has done in both posts. Until a replacement can be found Carla has kindly agreed to continue helping the Committee

in the activities concerning Young Arts and Heritage Volunteers, though she will no longer serve on the Committee. We would like to thank Carla for all she has done and is doing. We would like to express our thanks to Whiteley Village for the use of its hall, which provides such a pleasant venue for our lectures.

Margaret Waghorn, having been our Financial Examiner, has agreed to become Treasurer and we are most grateful to her for the time and support she gives us.

Our thanks are also extended to Brian McKenna, Treasurer, who has been on the Committee since 2006, firstly in charge of Meeting Arrangements and latterly as Treasurer, and also to Peter Gorty, Special Interest Days, who are both retiring from the Committee. Our thanks are also due to all the other Committee members, who have been mentioned elsewhere, without whose hard work and time freely given throughout the year, the Society would not be functioning let alone thriving as it is. We are very grateful for their efforts on our behalf ensuring the smooth running of the Society from which we all derive so much pleasure. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Sylvia Webber and Eva Paige for serving us coffee and tea at the start of each lecture.

Stephen Hayes has devoted much time and effort to providing us with a web-site www.weybridgedfas.org.uk and we hope that all our members with access to a computer will take advantage of this development.

Hugh Walker
Chairman

26th July 2010