

JANUARY 2012

# Forum

Website: [www.esdfas.com](http://www.esdfas.com)

East Suffolk Decorative and Fine Arts Society



Sue Culley, on behalf of the ESDFAS Committee, wishes all members a very happy New Year. The Committee hope that your anticipation will be raised by the wide range of events they have planned for you in 2012.

Rachel Trotman was asked by the Chair to give a vote of thanks at the AGM on the 22nd of November. All attending were surprised and delighted when she delivered this in the form of a poem. Fortunately, the editor can now print the poem for all to share.

A year ago I left your Committee,  
The e-mails, phone-calls, nitty-gritty!  
Committee graft if quite hard work;  
No place for passengers who shirk!

So when Sue asked me to propose ~  
A vote of thanks to all of those ~  
Who toil away on our behalf,  
I said I would, but didn't laugh!

The programme doesn't just appear!  
It's worked upon throughout the year.  
For **you** they **hope**, there's not a ruffle;  
For **them**, they **know**, quite a kerfuffle.

Denise plans months and months ahead ~  
Before the programme's put to bed.  
Margaret and Beverley ensure ~  
Your satisfaction when on tour.

John Prodger keeps the Young Arts keen;  
Frank edits Forum magazine,  
While Eva runs the membership ~  
Cajoling those whose mem'ries slip!

And Perry shepherds painters, who ~  
Exhibit what they've learned to do.  
Peter and Charles behind the scenes ~  
Keep admin smooth and count the beans!

Sue Culley chairs, but doesn't rhyme!  
She gives to NADFAS so much time.  
Despite Vermeer, Berlin or Venice,  
She still finds time to cook for Dennis!

I'll end by thanking all of you, ~  
Who pay your money when it's due ~  
And come to NADFAS with a smile.  
You make their hard work all worth-while !!!

## Northumbria visit 21st to 24th May inc 2012



**Visit : Lindisfarne & Bamburgh Castles  
Durham Cathedral, Bowes Museum  
Botanical gardens at Sheffield  
Your booking form is enclosed.**

## Antwerp visit



**17th to 21st September inc 2012**

**Your booking form is enclosed**

**The Flemish Masters & Battlefields of Ypres  
Guided tour of Antwerp & Rubens' House  
First World War Sites & Ypres  
Ghent: St Bavo's & Museum of Fine Art  
Lille & Palais des Beaux Arts**

## FORTHCOMING LECTURES.

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**Tuesday 24th January 2012**

**Mary Alexander**

***Meet me at the Waldorf: the extraordinary story of two iconic hotels built on Astor feuds fortunes and art patronage***

The Waldorf-Astoria on Fifth Avenue was built at the height of the Gilded Age in 1893; its luxurious interiors brimmed with the latest trends in imported art and furniture from Europe. It was the place where high society would meet, to see and to be seen. However the hotel was demolished in 1929 to make way for the Empire State building. So the Waldorf-Astoria Park Avenue, icon of glamorous Art deco hotels and literally 'home in New York' to the stars was built.

The hotel's renowned glittering interiors, lobbies and Ballrooms were created by leading European designers, artists and sculptors.

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**Tuesday 28th February 2012**

**Imogen Corrigan**

***The Lindisfarne Gospels***

This lecture considers the extraordinary artistic ability of Eadfrith who is thought to have made the Gospels single-handedly in c.700. It also discusses why the Lindisfarne gospels were made. The book is much more than a copy of the sacred text and a thing of beauty. It was made for distinctly political reasons that were closely connected to the fall-out from the Synod of Whitby and the struggle for survival by the once powerful community at Lindisfarne. The lecture includes discussion of the gloss added by Aldred ('most miserable and unworthy priest') nearly 300 years later.

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**Tuesday 27th March 2012**

**Dr Colin Lattimore**

***The History of the Long Case Clock***

The lecture starts with a review of early timekeepers from sundials onwards. This is followed by the introduction of mechanical timekeeping using a weight driven mechanism. The development is traced through turret clocks and lantern clocks to the long case clock which was in fashion for about 180 years from 1660 – 1840 then coming back into fashion as an antique in the 20th century. The story involves the artistic, mechanical, social and commercial aspects. It relates the development to the business and social needs of the period.

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**Tuesday 24th April 2012**

**Alan Read**

***Hilda Carline: The first Mrs Stanley Spencer***

Gifted, and from a family of artists, Hilda (pictured opposite) studied at the Slade where she met and subsequently married one of the star pupils, Stanley Spencer. After they divorced a tense triangular relationship developed between Stanley, Hilda and his second wife Patricia Preece. Unlike Hilda, Patricia was an artist of modest talent and much of her work was actually done by Patricia's companion, Dorothy Hepworth. The lecture looks both at the fascinating biographies of these people and at Hilda Carline's largely neglected work.

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**Tuesday 22nd May 2012**

**Christopher Bradley**

***Libya Uncovered – The Magnificence of Leptis Magna, Sabratha and Cyrene***

Libya is slowly revealing its ancient Phoenician, Greek and Roman cultures. The 3rd century AD is the golden age of the very finest examples of Roman mosaics and art.

Ancient rock paintings deep in the Sahara Desert show the early artistic skills of semi-nomadic traders 10,000 years ago. The Phoenicians developed the early trading ports of Sabratha and Leptis Magna, whilst the Greeks built the magnificent city of Cyrene. However it was under the powerful Roman Empire that Leptis Magna was the greatest city in Africa. Recently uncovered villas show the finest examples of Roman mosaics and art.

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## REPORTS OF VISITS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2011.

### BERLIN

#### 18th to 22nd September 2011

On a sunny Sunday morning 21 "Berliners" set off on their journey. Easyjet proved to be just that and our flight arrived early ... to pouring rain in Berlin and a very warm welcome from Thomas our guide. On Monday our first stop was at the Humboldt Library in the Unter den Linden district, Driving through the city we stopped at the Holocaust Memorial designed by Peter Eisenman to commemorate the murdered Jews of Europe. .

We were able to walk through the ever-deepening rows of blocks, an emotional experience. After lunch we had a chance to look at the Emperor Wilhelm Memorial Church much of which was destroyed in World War II. Our day ended at the Reichstag and the Norman Foster dome, where we had tea, coffee and luscious cakes on the roof top. Having climbed up into the dome we were rewarded by splendid views of the city.

Wednesday started with a visit to Museum Island – a collection of various museums. Several groups took a boat trip along the Spree river from whence we could admire the amazing new glass buildings. Thursday was our last full day and we went to Potsdam, about 1½ hours from Berlin. Again in glorious sunshine we were able to enjoy the beautiful gardens of the Sanssouci Palace with the cascade of terraces where vines and figs are grown in winter protected behind specially constructed doors. Our tour continued indoors where we were able to admire the stylish rococo rooms of the Palace built in 1745-47.

Departure day came all too soon. We said goodbye to Berlin with many memories of a few days and were also in for a further treat on the way back to Luton with a spectacular view of Alde & Ore rivers.

**Editors note.** Space has forced me to abbreviate a detailed report, but the full version is available on application.



### VISIT TO EUSTON HALL

#### 12th October 2011

The day started with lunch at the Leaping Hare, a chance for shopping and a wander around the beautiful gardens.

We arrived at Euston Hall at 2.30 pm and were welcomed into the Hall by the Dowager Duchess of Grafton and her two very well informed guides who gave us a fascinating tour of the Hall, gardens and Church of St Genevieve. The Hall contained some fine works of art by Van Dyke, Lely and Sir Joshua Reynolds, also a number of paintings by the Late Duke, himself an enthusiastic artist. Amongst the many interesting artefacts exhibited in the Hall was the Telescope belonging to Admiral Lord Nelson and the Barometer

designed by Admiral Robert Fitzroy (grandson of the 4th Duke). Our tour ended with tea and homemade cakes in the old kitchen surrounded by memorabilia of HMS Grafton

**DON'T FORGET –**  
A DAY OF SPECIAL INTEREST.  
Wednesday 15th February 2012  
at THORPNESS COUNTRY CLUB

**JAPANESE ARCHITECTURE, GARDENS**



With  
**SUZANNE PERRIN MA.**  
The day will start with an introduction to Japanese architecture, including temples, palaces, villas and tea houses.

### POINTS TO BEAR IN MIND FOR VISITS

Visits may involve:

- ~ walking on some paths that may be uneven!
- ~ standing for a longish period of time!

Please read the booking forms carefully and check if you think this could pose a problem for you.

Park at pick-up points with thought for your return. When you leave it may be light but dark when you return - making crossing of busy roads or negotiating car parks hazards to be avoided.

Unfortunately Visits Secretaries cannot refund cheques once you have booked a visit. If you need to cancel then it may sometimes be possible to find a substitute from a waiting list to take your place.

## REPORT OF VISIT IN NOVEMBER 2011

### NAZEING GLASS WORKS

**8th November 2011.**

**The visit leader has decided to simply report the feedback of those who took part in the trip:**

Thank you for allowing me to come on the Nazeing glass-works visit. I enjoyed it very much. I am quite interested in glass and have several pieces at home so found the whole experience fascinating. Many thanks for organising what seemed to be a faultless day out.

Thank you so much for organising such a wonderful trip - we both thoroughly enjoyed it. Such a shame more people didn't join us - they missed a real treat.

Thank you for organising an absolutely terrific and interesting visit to the glass factory with the added bonus of the glass expert who won't be forgotten in a hurry.

Thank you; we had a wonderful day and were grateful to have the opportunity to see the hand made glass in the making which is so rare today. We have ordered one of the pieces we saw being blown; as the cooling process takes two days it was not ready for us to take home. It will be a great memento.

A note to say how much I enjoyed the day at Nazeing. It was a wonderful experience and so interesting. A triumph! Thank you so much for a really lovely visit.



### ESDFAS BURSARY

This is the second year that we have been able to award a bursary to a student from Leiston Community High School.

Sarah Brown, pictured opposite with our president Shelley Cowlin, is in her first year of a B.A. in Fine Art at U.C.S (Ipswich). Her current ambition is to become an art teacher. Sarah lives with her family in Kelsale and is working (two part-time jobs) to support herself through her degree course. She has used the money to buy a laptop and a digital camera – essentials for her course work. There will be an article from Sarah in a later edition of Forum.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

Visit to  
The Memorial Arts Charity  
Snape Priory  
Thursday 7th June

The Memorial Arts Charity at Snape Priory is an art-based educational charity helping to maintain and renew the long tradition of letter-carving in stone. The day, which promises to be interesting, includes a guided tour and a demonstration of letter-carving. The booking forms will go out with the May Forum. Places are limited to 35, so to ensure a place please reply promptly.

### Want to bring a guest ?

Guests at ESDFAS Lectures (a suggested minimum donation of £5.00 per guest) are welcome, in limited number.

Please contact :  
**Sue Culley**  
Chair 01728 452267

Requests should be made no later than 6.00pm on the day before the lecture.

**Thank you**

### Committee Members:

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Alan Eklid  
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