

Young Arts Report 2017

NADFAS societies take a variety of approaches towards their involvement in Young Arts activities, dependent on the importance each individual society places on nourishing a love of the Arts in future generations.

Here in Cranleigh, we have long acknowledged the importance of artistic creativity in child development and have sought to augment the good but cash-strapped work of local schools in this vital area of education.

In this aim the Young Arts team of our society has been fortunate to have unfailing support from its membership, together with generous financial backing from a hugely supportive committee. This has meant that we've been able to develop a varied programme of projects each year. 2017 was no exception.

Over the years, our society has formed a close relationship with **St Joseph's Specialist School and College**, testament to which was an invitation to join them for their summer Arts Week. This gave a group of our members the chance to look at the students' wonderful artwork.



More important was the unveiling of the willow onion playhouse, which our society had commissioned and fully funded. This was the work of willow weaver Judith Needham, seen in the photograph. It followed on from her workshop for students held at the Mittal Foundation on the 6th July, again fully funded by CDFAS, during which a group of St Joseph's students learned basic techniques and wove little baskets.

It's not always possible to take photographs of these vulnerable youngsters, but here is Hannah, trying out the new addition to the schools' grounds. The picture made the front page of the following week's "Surrey Advertiser".



July also saw one of the highlights of the Young Arts' Year: the **Cranleigh Schools' Art Exhibition**. The show, which was held at the Arts Centre between the 18th and 29th July, involved all three Cranleigh Primary schools, Glebelands Secondary School, St Joseph's Specialist School and College and Cranleigh School. It was a large and impressive display of paintings, photographs and 3d pieces in a mix of media, created by dozens of pupils, aged 5 to 18, so it was a wonderfully eclectic amalgam of artwork.



Just a small selection of the exhibits, which illustrate the creativity of our local young people.



The students at **Glebelands School** produce some outstanding work, but budgetary constraints hamper their excellent art teacher's ability to expand their creative experiences. In our society's attempt to plug that gap, for the second year running, we sponsored a day long, tailor-made workshop at the Watts Gallery for the school's Year 10 art class.

The day of the 29th September began with a guided tour of the gallery, paying particular attention to Watt's painting "Cosmos", as the class would be asked to interpret it later in the day. The tour continued to Watt's studio and sculpture gallery, where the students learned more about the famous painter's techniques.

The morning session ended with a talk by the gallery's conservator. This gave a fascinating insight into the painstaking work involved in dating and verifying paintings. Equally interesting were the processes used to restore them, which employ both traditional methods as well as modern technology.



The afternoon was spent in the art studio, where the students enjoyed using canvasses for the first time.

The artist who led this session provided a large array of materials, including flour, sponges and feathers and the students were quickly experimenting with various textures and effects.

The paintings they produced were very varied and exciting and the whole day was clearly a great learning experience as well as good fun.



Young children love Christmas! As the festive season approached, we set our sights on achieving our aim to provide a Christmas Decoration Workshop for the all the primary schools in Cranleigh. Previous years had been the turn of St Cuthbert Mayne and Park Mead. 2017 it was **Cranleigh Primary's**.



On the 4th December both Year 4 classes spent either the morning or the afternoon putting their creative talents to use, making an array of advent calendars, snowmen and other Christmas trimmings. Considerable amounts of glitter were used; the children believing in the old adage “the more the merrier”. The day certainly got them into the Christmas spirit!



On top of these projects, each month on a rota basis, we continue to display a different piece of **artwork from our local schools**. Look out for them in the Arts Centre's foyer

One final word!

We, the Young Arts Team are so grateful to our society as a whole for allowing us to provide these extra opportunities for local young people. We're equally grateful to their teachers for the wonderful support we get from them. That works both ways of course and they very much appreciate the extra help our society is able to provide.....

.....and here are **the teachers**, along with NADFAS Head of Young Arts, Denise Topolski, at the private view which launched the 2017 Summer Exhibition.



In 2018 CDFAS will become The Arts Society, Cranleigh and we'll be broadening our activities to encompass all the Arts.

Report by

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