

Young Arts Report for West Surrey Area meeting  
Held on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2017

I am pleased to say that 16 of our 18 West Surrey Societies are contributing in some way to Young Arts Activities and are most generous in the support they have given. It is hard to say exactly how much has been donated because of on going problems with filling in the online forms. In spite of Joanne Martin's help and patience at Nadfas House, some forms seem to disappear, a problem, which I note has also happened elsewhere in the country. However my estimated guess is that our societies have contributed around £6500.00 over the last year.

All the societies are engaged in wonderfully worthwhile activities, which can be seen on their websites and the area website. With new activities being set up all the time it is sometimes hard to keep up to date with everything and it is also hard to pick out a few highlights from these excellent projects!

.Mayford Society has sponsored an art student from Woking College whose work was successful in being selected for the RBA exhibition at the Mall Galleries and is now a Nadfas Scholar. Mayford has an excellent track record of success with this initiative. Guildford Evening has successfully launched a rolling Art Exhibition of work from local schools at Guildford Station, in the waiting room on platform 3. Similar schemes are running with South West trains at Farnham, who initially started the scheme and Haslemere. The art work is changed every term, and not only promotes our organisation, but gives great pleasure to passengers.

Shalford's Chairman is promoting classes for girls to learn embroidery, a subject rarely taught in schools nowadays. Walton and Hersham, supported the National Chairman's Art Competition, which was great because overall it was not well supported. They submitted 33 individual entries from 3 local schools. The entries will be judged by June Robinson

and the winners announced at the end of April. Next year's theme will be 'My Golden Moment' to link with Nadfas 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and will be for children up to the age of 14.

The Spring Meeting of Young Arts Coordinators was held on 21<sup>st</sup> March at the Art workers Guild in London. I am grateful to Halina from Walton and Hersham for attending in my absence. It was announced that Denise Topolski would be taking over from Sue Gilbert as National YA Chairman. She has arranged an initiative entitled "Our True Gold". An event involving Young Artists work to be shown in Museums and Galleries on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September. You will be receiving further information when it becomes available.

I know many of you support the Big Draw but the scheme will not be receiving support from Nadfas House this year for financial reasons. It was noted that within the rebranding exercise, there is a desire to increase the educational remit, highlighting the importance of Young Arts locally and nationally.

I am happy to try to arrange a final meeting of Young Arts representatives before I retire in May. I have very much enjoyed working with such an enthusiastic group, over the last five years and am happy to continue lending support in any way. It is worth noting that the next Information Day for YA reps is to be held at Nadfas House on 8<sup>th</sup> June and I do recommend it as a most useful opportunity particularly for new society representatives.

Jane Stopford  
West Surrey Young Arts Co-ordinator